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ZURICH SHOW

Friday August 16 1996

Abu Dhabi D 8.50	Hong Kong HK 2.25	Oman OR 1.50
Algeria AL 1.20	Indonesia ID 2.00	Qatar QA 1.75
Andorra AD 1.20	Iran IR 1.20	Poland PL 2.50
Australia AU 0.85	Italy IT 1.20	Portugal P 2.00
Bahrain BH 1.20	Japan JP 1.20	Romania RO 2.00
Bangladesh BD 1.20	Korea KR 1.20	Russia RU 2.00
Belgium BE 1.20	Malaysia MY 1.20	Saudi Arabia SA 1.20
Canada CA 1.20	Thailand TH 1.20	Slovenia SI 1.20
Cyprus CY 1.20	Turkey TR 1.20	Slovakia SK 1.20
Czech Republic CZ 1.20	USA US 2.75	Spain SP 1.20
Denmark DK 1.20		Sweden SE 1.20
Egypt EG 1.20		Switzerland CH 1.20
France FR 1.20		Taiwan TW 1.20
Germany DE 1.20		Thailand TH 1.20
Greece GR 1.20		Turkey TR 1.20
		Ukraine UA 1.20
		USA US 2.75

# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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## Sport 96



● Joe McGinniss: Why soccer cost me a \$1m advance ● How Arsenal put the lows into Highbury ● Plus latest sports news in the unique tabloid section

● Can Rylance's Globe succeed?  
**Review**  
Plus: The circus that shocked Edinburgh; Mikhail Baryshnikov

## Caught in a Russian death trap

**James Meek** reports on the new threat to fleeing Chechens

PERHAPS his memory really had been knocked awry by the bombing. His head was bandaged and his face was splashed with spots of vivid green, a former Soviet substance for disinfecting wounds, where the shrapnel had hit the skin. But sometimes it is safer not to remember. Yes he had been there when the planes flew over. After that it was all a blank.

For a young Chechen man of fighting age, a hospital bed in Urus Martan, 12 miles south of the capital Grozny, is not a sure sanctuary, and not simply because of the flies and the persistent odour of death and excrement in its crumbling corridors, crowded with the injured from more than a week of fighting.

The FSB, the Russian Security Service, also prowls Chechen hospital corridors, looking for young men who might have taken up arms on the rebel side.

But this man — who did not give his name — was not wounded in Grozny. He was injured in the village of Komsomolskaya in a large air raid launched by Russian forces on Wednesday afternoon after the truce agreed between rebels and federal troops was supposed to have been in place.

Eight people were killed in the raid by six aircraft and seven helicopters gunships, followed by artillery strikes. Six of the people killed were from one family.

"They were blown into little pieces. It was a terrible scene," said a neighbour, Apti Magomedov, aged 30, speaking in a ward of Urus Martan hospital filled with injured from the raid. "Mother, father, son and two little children. Rockets, and then bombs."

Komsomolskaya is not known as a rebel stronghold, and significant numbers of Russian troops are stationed nearby. Local people think the raid was a petty act of revenge by the Russia high command as the village used to be the home of Ruslan Gadiyev, one of the leaders of the separatist assault on Grozny.

The bombing illustrates the Russians' uncoordinated approach to the Chechens. It adds evidence to the growing conviction that the Russian army has become blind to the difference between Chechen fighters and civilians and sees the republic as no more than an arena in which to gamble for its general honour.

According to a French team from the Médecins Sans Frontières organisation, the pause in the fighting is no guarantee that people will be able to escape the city with their wounded.

"It can happen that there are five, six, seven people in a car, trying to hide a wounded person. If he's a man, the Russian checkpoint will not let him through," said Graziella Godain, one of the organisation's emergency workers in the north Caucasus. "We have many statements from people who have tried to bring dead relatives out of Grozny."

The routes out of Grozny which do not pass Russian checkpoints are hardly less dangerous. They are also used



Refugees crowding one of the main roads out of Grozny yesterday as they fled to safer areas despite the ceasefire

## 'Mother, father, son and two little children. They were blown into pieces. It was a terrible scene'

by rebels, making them a target for Russia's indiscriminate air attacks.

The city's two main hospitals, the Fourth and the Ninth, are not functioning. The Ninth was badly damaged after an extraordinary reverse hostage-taking operation in which Russian special forces, trapped by rebels, seized wards and told the separatists they would kill the patients if they were not allowed to escape. This story was confirmed by refugees

the Guardian spoke to yesterday.

The Fourth hospital was rocked by Russian helicopter gunships and virtually destroyed on the first day of the fighting. Tabians Ibrahimova, aged 43, who has just escaped from the city, said yesterday that an entire surgical team from the hospital and many patients still lay dead under heaps of rubble.

"It was hell what they did. We hurried who we could in the yard," she said. "There were fighters in that district but why they shot at the hospital I do not know. I stay for two days in the hospital with the rats, without water. There was no one there to help people. They died alone."

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PHOTOGRAPH: VLADIMIR MASHATIN



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## Calls for justice body chief to quit

Duncan Campbell  
Crime Correspondent

LAWYERS and politicians yesterday called for the resignation of the chairman of the Government's new body to investigate miscarriages of justice, following the revelation in the Guardian that he is a member of an elite order of Freemasons.

News that Sir Frederick Crawford, who was appointed chairman of the Criminal Cases Review Authority by the Prime Minister earlier this year, is a Royal Arch Freemason has caused surprise and dismay among lawyers involved with alleged miscarriage of justice cases.

Politicians have urged Sir Frederick to consider his position and to resign either as chairman or from the Freemasons.

Carolyn Taylor of Taylor Nichol, the lawyers who handle the cases of the three men protesting their innocence in the Carl Bridgewater case, said yesterday that she believed Sir Frederick's position was untenable.

"The Brotherhood [a book about the Freemasons] shows that many senior police officers are masons, so how can we be sure that he will be impartial?"

She expressed concern about whether Sir Frederick would have a veto on cases submitted as suitable for appeal.

Solicitor Michael Fisher, who was involved in the Guildford Four and Winchester Three cases, said: "It's very disappointing. Many police officers are masons. It will lead to the inevitable belief that cases will be discussed behind the scenes."

Hugh Callaghan, one of the



Birmingham Six who was falsely imprisoned in 1975 for the Birmingham pub bombings, said: "It's all wrong. People like that should not be on the commission."

Liberal Democrat Alan Beith called on Sir Frederick to renounce his membership of the Freemasons.

"There's no doubt that Sir Frederick Crawford will do the job with the utmost integrity," said Mr Beith. "But given the number of police officers, especially Metropolitan Police, who are Freemasons, and the obligations which the movement puts on them towards each other, it's about whether Sir Frederick would have a veto on cases submitted as suitable for appeal."

Chris Mullin, the Labour MP whose campaigning work helped to free the Birmingham Six, called on Sir Frederick to resign his 288,000-a-year part-time post as chairman of the commission.

Turn to page 3, column 1

## 60pc of university places confirmed in first day

More A level passes and higher grades lead to candidates succeeding with first-choice conditional college offers

John Carvel  
Education Editor

THE universities were making record progress yesterday in confirming undergraduate places for successful A level candidates.

Within hours of the results being distributed at schools, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service said 170,000 definite offers had been made.

This was about 60 per cent

of total places available and well ahead of last year's results day performance.

An increase of nearly 2 per cent in the A level pass rate and improvements at most grades in most subjects helped more candidates achieve the standard required to translate conditional offers into firm places.

With about 3,000 fewer Government-funded university places available this year and more successful candidates seeking to fill them, the com-

petition for the remaining places is likely to be fierce.

However, Ucas said there were still plenty of offers for candidates who were prepared to be flexible about choice of course and institution. When the clearing process to match students and places begins in earnest next week, there will be a wider selection of courses available than ever before.

Ucas has warned students considering a year out before starting their university studies that they risk the introduction of top-up fees.

Colleges say that unless the Government reverses spending cuts, next year's students could face registration fees of £300 or more.

Tony Higgins, the Ucas chief executive said: "This year, some candidates might decide to accept places now rather than risk waiting a year and facing an additional financial burden."

"If they do, that could mean more youngsters than last year chasing fewer clearing places. But at the moment we just don't know."

The improvement in A level results caused embarrassment for institutions which offered places on the assumption that some candidates would fall to make the required grades.

The University of Wales College of Medicine in Cardiff said its 170 places for medical students were already over-

subscribed by more than 10 per cent because too many candidates achieved its entry standard of one A grade and two Bs.

The overcrowding could become even more serious if places were claimed by other candidates who had been given "insurance" offers at the Welsh college — to be taken up if they failed to get into their first preference courses.

A college spokesman said it would honour all its offers, even if this meant reducing admissions and raising the entry standard for future years.

Amid a welter of reports of superlative performance by A level students, the case of a

Bosnian refugee stood out yesterday.

She gained four A level passes to win a place at Oxford University — five years after arriving in this country with hardly any knowledge of English.

Ana Ignjatovich, aged 18, was visiting relatives in Somerset with her parents and younger sister, Boyana, when civil war devastated their home city of Sarajevo.

She learned yesterday that she had gained A-grade passes in chemistry, maths and biology and a C in English literature — and now she is to study medicine at Oriel College.

"I hope to practise medicine in Bosnia," she said.

## Inside

**Britain**  
Complaints from rail users rose by 15 per cent last year as the lack of investment and the network split-up hit services hard.

**World News**  
Sarajevo airport finally re-opened to international traffic when a Boeing 727 from Istanbul touched down yesterday.

**Finance**  
The High Court ruled that Lloyd's £3.2 billion rescue plan was legal, dismissing a claim that the proposal was unlawful.

**Sport**  
Wigan's Henry Paul signed a four-month contract to play Rugby Union over the winter. He will get £2,000 a match. In Sport 96.

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Radio 12, TV 12



Get your American Express Travellers Cheques à grande vitesse.

American Express Travellers Cheques on the special Holidays Fair.

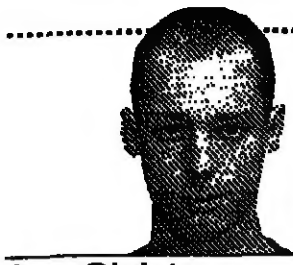
Travellers Cheques

Lloyds Bank



Sketch

Inspired lunacy in 7-minute culture



Dan Glaister

THANKFULLY the man in the bar wearing the yellow and red hat with curved horns and dangling earflaps was not a contestant...

words she is "a big Scottish shag", the audience being encouraged to shout out the phrase "Shut up, you big Scottish shag"...

Review

Oboe placed in good company

Andrew Clements

Woolrich & Knussen Premiers The Proms, Royal Albert Hall

IT HAS been a busy summer for John Woolrich. Last month his opera in the House of Crossed Desires...

rich to create a much larger canvas for his works than one might expect: oboe concertos conventionally are small-scale and light-textured...

Kurd TV station back on air after winning satellite deal

Owen Rowcott

THE London-based Kurdish satellite television station MED TV, which was forced off air in July amid claims of political interference...

government and a shortage of satellite capacity in Europe. Turkey has repeatedly asked Downing Street to close the channel...

Relaunch of image along with the offer of tax cuts gives the Republican contender a fighting chance

New Dole starts to pay off

Martin Walker in San Diego

BOB DOLE and Jack Kemp leave their almost triumphant Republican convention today with President Clinton's poll lead clawed back to 10 points...

His party, convinced that Mr Clinton's flaws will confound him, pin their hopes on a campaign which presents "a better man for a better America"...

at the price of an improbable series of ideological somersaults, which are intensely vulnerable to a counter-attack by Mr Clinton...

of the poor and downtrodden, has swallowed the party's harsh anti-immigration and anti-affirmative action policies...

"ended welfare as we know it", slashed the budget deficit to its lowest in 15 years, and put an extra 100,000 police on the street...

The Republican problem is that they are still stuck with a Christian Coalition manifesto, which Ralph Reed, the coalition's executive director, said yesterday was "the platform we will fight on"...



English Heritage and the National Trust, which together own Stonehenge and surrounding land, favour a tunnel taking the road under the site

Fears grow over Stonehenge road choice

Archaeologists dismayed at speculation ministers will opt for cheapest but most environmentally sensitive route through heritage site. Maev Kennedy reports



THE Government is understood to be on the point of choosing the cheapest but most environmentally explosive option for upgrading the road through the Stonehenge world heritage site...

exactly the same as the Government did with the M3 at Winchester - tried to wait away from the problems as they perceived them...

'It would be a deplorable betrayal of commitments which the Government has made to the rest of the world, and of principles of sustainable conservation'

on the archaeology of the area. A spokeswoman for the National Trust said they would be astonished if the route, much of which runs through inalienable land belonging to the Trust, were resurrected...

ment, English Heritage and the National Trust should investigate ways to fund the tunnel. Getting rid of the present A303, and the narrow road to the north which nudges the heel stone of the circle...

Pope in new health scare

John Hooper in Rome

POPE John Paul was taken to a small country hospital near Rome on Wednesday for what were intended to be secret tests, it emerged yesterday...



The Pope: Illnesses ascribed to influenza

by a sudden fever. Both illnesses were subsequently ascribed to influenza. He spent just over an hour at the Regina Apostolorum Hospital in Albano on Wednesday...

FRANCIS A LOT advertisement with large text and promotional message

Thomas Cook Foreign Exchange advertisement with logo and contact information

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page



'If you can afford to live here you really cannot moan about the state of Britain'

Eddie Presswick, expatriate Briton



Glenda Jackson takes Labour's campaign to Alan Turney and Graham Lee, above, and other Britons, below left, in Benidorm

Rail service complaints at new high

FRAGMENTATION of the privatised railway network and the lack of long-term investment are generating a record level of passenger complaints...

Table with 2 columns: Category and Change. Includes rows for On train facilities, Overcrowding, Telephone enquiries, Punctuality, Suitability of timetables, and Cancellations.

Problems on the West Coast main line - which runs from London to Glasgow and was the scene of last week's Watford crash - are becoming particularly severe...



Sunshine, bingo and New Labour as Glenda woos Costa trippers

asked Peter Brooks from Birmingham, of the shadow transport secretary, Ms Jackson, here for the afternoon, looked overdressed and anaemic in the sea of frying flesh...

Mrs Loughran was delighted. 'We vote Labour anyway, but I think it is good of her to come on to the beach.'

'Poor' abortion woman is wealthy

Hospital admits misleading public in row over 'selective culling' of twin in womb

Winterton called 'selective culling' in the womb. The embattled hospital, which said it issued misleading information to protect the identity of the patient...

Justice commission chief urged to quit over link to masons

Mr Hamill added: 'If he is in a situation where there might even appear to an outsider to be conflict, he will declare his interest and then withdraw or abide by the standing orders or bylaws of the body concerned.'

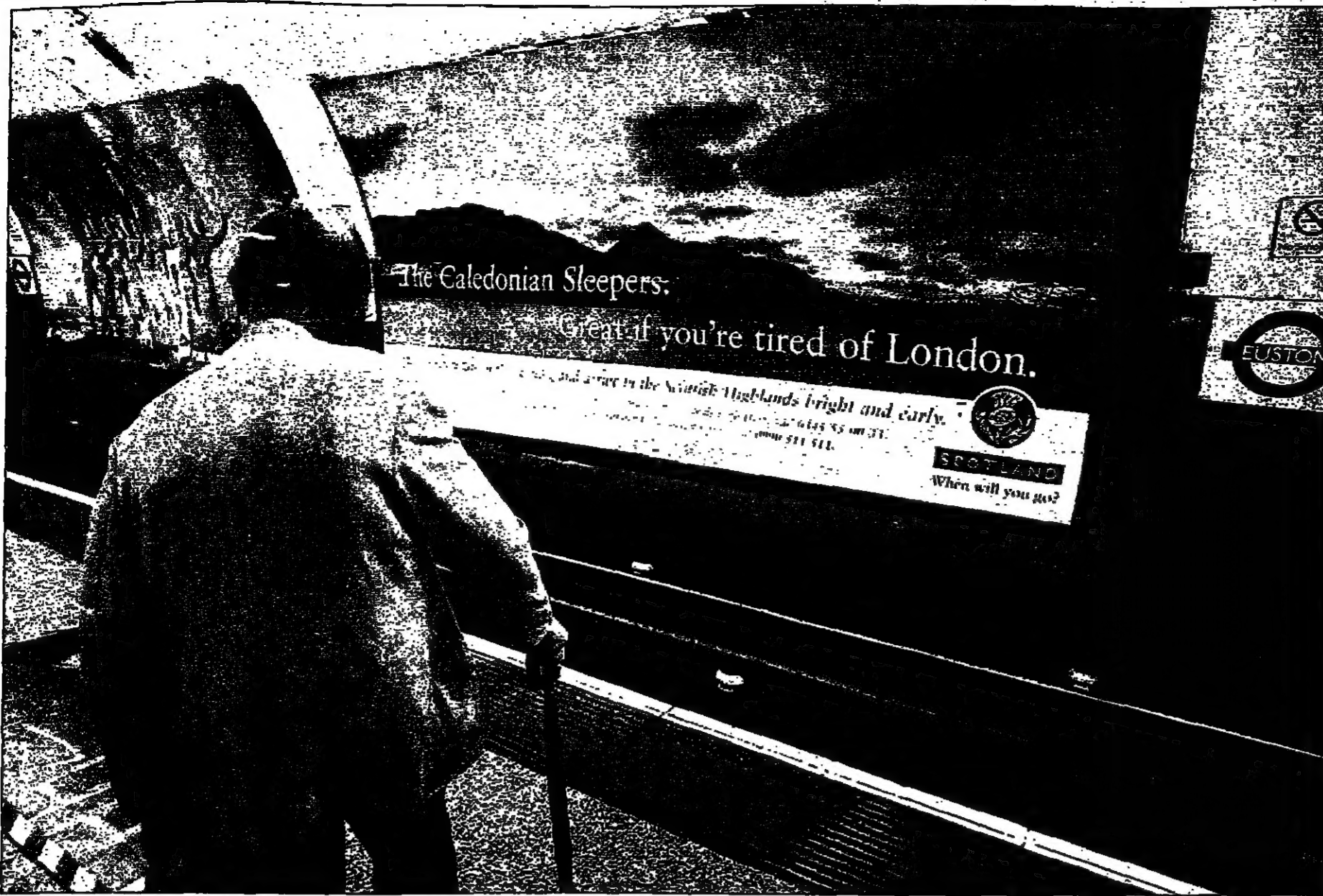


Sir Frederick: Veto fear

The mystique surrounding the great lost guitar player stems partly from the fact that Green's sad saga of hallucinogenic drugs, mental illness and the blues reads like an obituary of sixties rock music.

Advertisement for TSB Mortgage Challenge. Includes headline 'Go on, be really cheeky.', 'Ask for a free mortgage quote in ten minutes flat.', and a form for requesting a quote.





Counter attraction... A poster for the Scottish Tourist Board enticing Underground travellers to get away from it all for some Caledonian quiet

## Highland lure leaves London breathless

Tourist board peeved as capital is targeted by Scots counterpart, writes Jeanette Page

ON a grey morning in London, with Canary Wharf and St Paul's Cathedral peeking through the haze, the Scottish Tourist Board unveiled a £1.4 million campaign to attract visitors from London.

As commuters made their way home last night by Tube or rail, they were able to view a poster showing a romantic Highland scene, with the words: "Leaves you breathless. Rather like the air in London."

On another poster, of a train racing through the countryside, "The Caledonian Sleepers. Great if you're tired of London."

Commuters might have been pressed to find anything with which to disagree. The same could not be said for the London Tourist Board.

Its managing director, Paul Hopper, said that it was unfortunate the advertising seemed couched in competitive terms.

"We believe the attractions London has to offer the visitor are entirely different from those in Scotland.

"If you want a choice of

### North v South

#### Five bad things about Scotland:

- Deep fried pickled eggs and Mars Bars
- Appalling standard of Scottish goalkeeping
- The royal family (August only)
- Midges
- The English at the Edinburgh festival

#### Five bad things about London:

- Australian bar staff
- The drinking hours
- The royal family
- Traffic
- Pollution

100 theatres, 125 cinemas, and 11,000 pubs, clubs and restaurants, you will have to come to London. However, if a quiet sunset over the mountains is what you

are after, Scotland's the place."

Graham Birse of the Scottish board denied that the campaign was an attempt to highlight pretty obvious and fundamental environmental differences. We are trying to persuade people from the South-east to visit Scotland to recharge their batteries."

London was one of the most creative media market places in the world, said Mr Birse, so to stand out, a campaign had to have an impact.

He added that the campaign was good for the United Kingdom. The board was not trying to entice overseas visitors away from London, just trying to attract Southerners who would otherwise take autumn breaks in France or Belgium.

Derek Reid, the chief executive of the Scottish board, said that the London board was being over-sensitive: "It should play to London's strengths and leave little old Scotland alone."

The charge of over-sensitivity was denied by a spokeswoman for the London board, Louise Wood. "We should be working together, rather than taking a pop at each other."



Capital attraction... Enjoying a London rave night in Brixton

## Tug-of-love Zulu boy may return

Oswan Rowcott

THE 11-year-old Zulu boy at the centre of a tug-of-love adoption case which reached the House of Lords was yesterday reported to be about to return from South Africa to Britain.

Sifiso Mahlangu flew back to Johannesburg in May after attempts by his parents former employer, Salome Stopford, aged 50, now based in London, to adopt him failed.

According to reports from South Africa yesterday, the boy's father, Charles Mahlangu, has decided to allow him to go back to Mrs Stopford after Sifiso became misbehave in his township home.

Mrs Stopford said she was "very encouraged" by the news, but that Mr Mahlangu had not told her his plans.

He has apparently gone on TV and radio in South Africa over the last three days, saying that he is sending Sifiso back.

"I am very encouraged, but I am not going to get my hopes up too high. The big question is when? He is not communicating with me at all. I have been trying constantly to get in contact by phone since Tuesday, but he is not taking my calls."

Mrs Stopford added: "I had no idea that things were leading up to this. I spoke to Charles last week and he said he had to make decisions and to speak to his social worker and solicitor."

"Ultimately, Charles, the decision rests with you."

"I am ready to pack my bags and fly out to pick Sifiso up at a moment's notice, but I don't want to appear to be harassing or pressuring the family by going out to South

Africa before Charles has told me his decision."

Mrs Stopford said: "I have spoken to Sifiso regularly since his return to South Africa, and he is desperately unhappy. I have had letters from him saying he wants to come home."

A reporter on the Johannesburg Star, Priscilla Singh, who interviewed Mr Mahlangu, confirmed he had said Sifiso was to return to London. "She told me that he did not have any exact date when Sifiso would depart, but that he was definitely going back," she said.

"He wants to send him back to further his education, but he doesn't want Mrs Stopford to adopt him."

Mrs Stopford said she understood Mr Mahlangu would almost certainly set conditions for Sifiso's return, but had no idea what they might be.

Mrs Stopford, who employed Sifiso's parents, had cared for the boy since he was 18 months old. The Afrikaans-speaking widow brought him to Britain in March 1992 when she moved to Maida Vale in north London and took British citizenship.

The natural parents agreed to let him go for the good of his education, on condition they would be allowed to visit him and he would maintain his South African links.

The Mahlangus started legal moves to have their son returned after discovering in 1994 that Mrs Stopford had launched a bid to adopt him, and he was made a ward of court.

The case went through the High Court, Court of Appeal and House of Lords before Mrs Stopford's application for it to be referred to the European Court of Human Rights was rejected.

## Cats may be main carriers of food poison super-bug

Chris Millill Medical Correspondent

PET cats could be helping to spread a super-bug of the organism which is now one of the most common causes of food poisoning, public health doctors warn today.

A type of salmonella called DT104 is the second most common cause of food poisoning in England and Wales. Reported cases have risen from 259 to 3,837 since 1990.

The researchers, from the Public Health Laboratory Service, say of particular concern is the rise of a strain which in most cases is resistant to five types of antibiotic, and can be resistant to seven.

The doctors say in the Lancet that an increasing number of cats are being discovered with the resistant strain of the bug.

"The finding that cats are infected with a strain of sal-

monella commonly responsible for food poisoning in human beings raises the question as to whether cats play a part in the spread of the strain."

The source of infection in cats may be from eating contaminated human food, or from rodents, but DT104 can also be found in cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry. "Therefore it is important that cats are not fed raw or undercooked meat," say the researchers.

"If cats are infected they could pass the infection to humans through their litter trays, on their paws to work-surfaces, or even through their mouths when grooming themselves."

"It is clearly an undesirable practice to allow cats free access to unprotected food and food preparation areas, and people handling cats must be aware of the need to wash their hands before consuming food."

## HRT 'can help to cut risk of Alzheimer's'

Chris Millill Medical Correspondent

WOMEN who take hormone replacement therapy may be reducing their risk of Alzheimer's disease, researchers say today.

Those using HRT, especially for a number of years, had a reduced chance of developing the dementia illness, and if it did develop, it struck at a later age, say doctors from New York.

Ming-Xin Tang and colleagues from Columbia University looked at 1,134 elderly women, with an average age of 74, of whom 156 were taking oestrogen. The average length of use was seven years.

The researchers, reporting their findings in the Lancet, say that among the non-users, 18.3 per cent developed Alzheimer's, but among those



Prominent HRT users Lady Thatcher and Joan Collins



taking HRT the figure was only 5.8 per cent.

In terms of the annual incidence rate, the researchers estimate that among those taking HRT there was a 2.7

per cent chance of developing Alzheimer's, compared to 8.4 per cent in non-users.

"They say: 'These results suggest that a history of oestrogen use during the post-

menopausal period significantly delays the onset of Alzheimer's disease and lowers the risk of the disease. Our results show that oestrogen does not prevent Alzheimer's disease, but that it seems to delay the onset of the disease."

The doctors suggest that oestrogen might be protective by affecting some of the brain messenger chemicals that are known to be important in the development of Alzheimer's.

They point out that there have been attempts in the past to use oestrogen as a treatment for Alzheimer's, and that further studies are needed into the protective effects of HRT.

Last month at an international psychiatric conference in London, Declan Murphy said there was growing evidence that oestrogen, in both women and men, could guard against mental decline.

Dr Murphy, of the Institute of Psychiatry, London, said that a pilot study involving 100 women had already been launched to see if HRT could affect brain ageing, and it was possible that testosterone replacement therapy for men could have a similar effect.

Hormone replacement therapy was originally developed to help women going through the menopause. However, it is now known that HRT can protect against the thin bone disease osteoporosis, as well as heart disease and strokes.

There is still controversy over whether HRT might increase the risk of breast cancer, and some women complain of nausea, water retention and other problems while taking the hormone.

Famous users of HRT include Baroness Thatcher, Theresa Gorman MP, and the actresses Joan Collins and Kate O'Mara.

## Criminals win compensation for abuse in childhood after appeal to injuries board

David Pallister

FIVE men who were sexually and physically abused in childhood have won their appeal against the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board's refusal of compensation because of their later criminal activities.

All five were granted awards of up to £25,000 by the board's chairman, Lord Carlisle QC.

The board's decision is likely to have an impact on hundreds of other cases. Lord Carlisle accepted the opinion of a psychologist that the abuse the men had received in the 1970s at children's homes run by Liverpool

social services made it difficult for them to form stable relationships in later life — leading to drug and alcohol dependency, anti-social behaviour and crime.

It is the normal practice of the board not to compensate the victims of crime when they are themselves criminals.

Three of the men, who had been convicted of crimes like burglary, theft and shoplifting in the 1980s, were given full awards of between £7,500 and £20,000.

A fourth who had committed several alcohol-related offences and the fifth who had convictions for arson and robbery were awarded £25,000 and £20,000 respectively, both

reduced by 50 per cent. Lord Carlisle said that they had suffered "appalling abuse" and despite their record they should have at least a reduced award.

Their solicitor, Peter Garsden, welcomed the decision but said he had reservations. "The board made it clear that it was making a departure from its normal practice and acted leniently. But as the offences all took place after the abuse, I believe that their criminal records should have been ignored."

Mr Garsden is also bringing a civil action on behalf of 110 men who claim to have been abused in four homes in the North-west. A High Court writ is to be issued shortly.

## Earl fined over gun by bedside says his wife felt more secure

THE Earl of Cardigan was fined £200 yesterday for two firearms offences.

The 43-year-old earl admitted failing to keep a weapon in a secure place at his home in Savernake Forest, near Marlborough, Wiltshire.

He also admitted failing to report the loss of another weapon.

The earl told magistrates at Devizes in Wiltshire that the first weapon was kept in a locked cupboard. But on his advice, his wife Rosamund, aged 46, removed the weapon from the cupboard and placed it by her bedside table.

There was no issue with ammunition.

The earl said the other weapon was an antique which could not be fired as there was no firing pin. It had belonged to his great-grandfather and he had no ammunition for it.

The earl said: "It is of no great value. It is not a threat to the world at large. I did not report it as I was unaware it had gone. This is not a case of behaving recklessly."

The earl, who appeared under his full name of David Michael Brudenell-Bruce, was fined £100 on each offence and ordered to pay £30 costs.

# AU REVOLUR COMMISSION

**NO COMMISSION CHARGE THIS SATURDAY WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR POUNDS INTO FRENCH FRANCS**

So with no commission and a great exchange rate, you'll get more Francs for your pounds. Hurry down to your local Thomas Cook High Street shop or Airport Bureau this Saturday!

**Thomas Cook**  
Foreign Exchange

No commission on French Franc bank notes only, maximum £2000. Available on Saturday 17th August 1996. Only available from Thomas Cook outlets in the UK while stocks last.

سكنا من الاصل



# 'Sharp rise' in use of drink and drugs by under-17s

### Virtually all youths in nationwide survey had consumed alcohol and half had smoked cannabis

Civrie Millar  
Medical Correspondent

**N**EARLY half of all 15- and 16-year-olds have tried illegal drugs, virtually all have consumed alcohol, and one in three are smokers, a large-scale survey reveals today. The study, one of the biggest ever carried out among teenagers in the United Kingdom, concludes that there has been a sharp rise in the number of young people experimenting with all types of drugs since 1988.

The researchers say there are clear links between drug use and school performance, with those who smoked, drank or took illegal drugs doing less well academically. Patrick Miller and Martin Plant, of the alcohol and health research group at Edinburgh University, looked at 1,722 pupils aged 15 and 16 at 60 state schools and 10 independent schools in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The research, published in the British Medical Journal, says 42 per cent of the pupils

session was seven units for girls and nine for boys.

The researchers believe the pupils answered truthfully, rather than trying to show off, as they included a question about a non-existent drug and virtually no-one claimed to have used it.

Dr Millar and Professor Plant state: "There were clear relations between school performance and both licit and illicit drug use."

They add: "This survey is one of the most detailed of its type to have been conducted in the United Kingdom and covers the whole country."

"Among girls, but not boys, cigarette smoking may have increased. However, for all types of drug experimentation there seems to have been a large rise since 1988."

Children aged 11 and 12 who are the most aware of cigarette advertising are the ones most likely to take up smoking, say researchers from the Cancer Research Campaign's child studies group at Manchester University.

They looked at 1,450 pupils and report in the British Medical Journal that cigarette advertising does increase children's awareness of brands and encourages them to take up the habit, despite the repeated denials of the tobacco industry.

"Awareness of certain brands of cigarette was linked to an increased risk of smoking in 11- to 15-year-olds, especially girls. Awareness of the most advertised brands was a strong predictor of smoking."

Designer ciders and alcoholic fruit juices are the drinks most widely used by schoolchildren to get drunk, and the growth in such brands is liable to fuel underage drinking, say researchers from Glasgow University.

Neil McKeganey and colleagues looked at 788 pupils aged 12 to 15 in Dundee and say 87 per cent used white ciders, with an alcohol level of 8 per cent, or fruit wines, with an alcohol level of 13 per cent, to get drunk.

They say in the British Medical Journal: "The level of self-reported drunkenness among young people identified in this study most give cause for concern. Clearly, such drunkenness is not solely related to the new drinks, but the fact that relatively strong alcoholic drinks are now being marketed and being widely consumed by young people is worrying."

have at some time used illicit drugs, mainly cannabis. Almost all the pupils — 94 per cent — had consumed alcohol, and 36 per cent had smoked cigarettes in the month prior to the survey.

A detailed breakdown of the illicit drug use shows that 38 per cent of the girls and 43 per cent of the boys had tried cannabis, with significantly higher levels reported in Scotland, where 60 per cent of boys and 47 per cent of girls said they had used it.

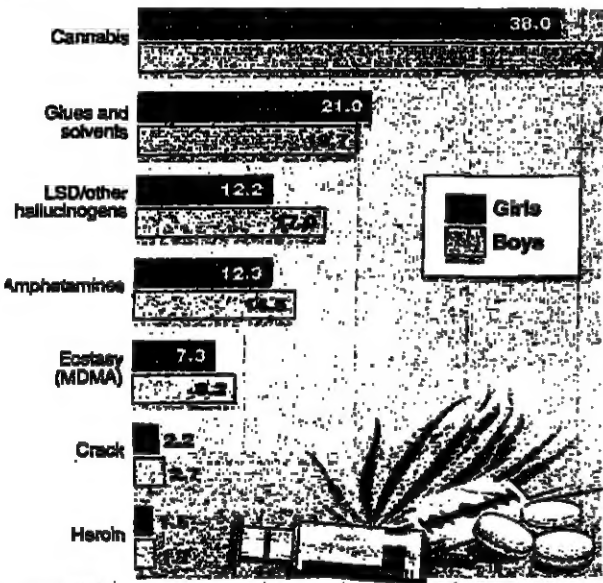
A fifth of the pupils, of both sexes, had used glue and solvents, and 12 per cent of girls and 17 per cent of boys had tried LSD or other hallucinogens.

Seven per cent of girls and 9 per cent of boys of both sexes had used crack, and 15 per cent had tried heroin.

In terms of alcohol use, 78 per cent of the pupils said they had been intoxicated at least once, with 11 per cent of girls saying they had consumed alcohol on nine or more occasions in the preceding month, and 15 per cent of the boys. The average intake on the last drinking

## Playing with drugs

Percentages of 15 and 16 year olds who reported ever using illicit drugs.



Source: BMJ



Erminia Finding The Wounded Taucered by the Italian master Guercino, saved for the nation by an 11th hour pledge

PHOTOGRAPH MURDO MCELROD

## Last ditch pledge rescues painting

Dan Ghalster  
Arts Correspondent

**A**FTER the arrival of a fax pledging £10,000 at 6pm yesterday, the National Galleries of Scotland was expected to announce this morning that the painting, Erminia Finding The Wounded Taucered, by the Italian 17th century master Guercino, will remain in Britain.

The eleventh hour pledge brought the Scottish galleries' appeal fund to within £43,000 of the £84,000 it needed to buy the painting

and keep it in the country. The picture's owners, the Howard family of Castle Howard in Yorkshire, had arranged in January to sell it to the world's richest museum, the J. Paul Getty Museum in California, for £3.5 million.

Timothy Clifford, director of the National Galleries of Scotland, launched an appeal to buy the picture and the Department of National Heritage placed an export block on the sale.

Thanks to tax breaks, the Scottish galleries would be able to buy the painting for just over £2 million.

Following two extensions to the export deferral, a final stay of 24 hours was granted on Wednesday, to expire at midnight last night.

The bid was put together with a grant of 75 per cent from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, £100,000 each from the National Fine Art Collections Fund, the Secretary of State for Scotland, and John Paul Getty Jr, son of the man behind the California museum. Mr Getty doubled his original donation of £50,000 on Wednesday when it became clear the

fund was tantalisingly close to the target.

Mr Clifford said: "It really is nail-biting stuff. Considering we have raised so much, it would be a dreadful shame if we were to lose the painting now."

However, the decision to bid for the painting, an historical epic showing a scene from the crusades, attracted criticism, with its relevance to Scotland being questioned.

The painting was bought at Christie's by the Earl of Carlisle in 1772 and has been at Castle Howard ever since.

## Germans are our close friends, Soames tells Thatcher in 'frightful row'

Rebecca Smithers  
Political Correspondent

**A**RMED forces minister Nicholas Soames yesterday revealed details of a dramatic bust-up with former premier Lady Thatcher when he was forced to defend the Germans as "our allies and our close, close friends."

The controversial pro-Europe minister also launched a strong attack on newspapers for feeding anti-Europe "crap" to readers about "foreigners and Europe and anti-this and anti-that".

The row — which took place recently at a private lunch and which was

revealed by Mr Soames in an interview with the Times yesterday — has further exposed the deep divisions within the Conservative Party over policy towards Europe.

Mr Soames told the newspaper: "I had a frightful row with Lady Thatcher the other day at a luncheon party. She was banging on about the Germans, and — I have to tell you — the Germans are our allies and our close, close friends."

Pressed to give further details about the nature of their spat, he refused, but he admitted that "Lady Thatcher and many within this country deeply resent the Germans".

In an attack on the Euro-

scepticism which is shared by some members of the Cabinet as well as Tory backbenchers and members of other political parties, Mr Soames said: "I regard the Europeans' views as being damaging to the interests of our country, and in every way to the interests of the nation."

In a swipe at the newspaper industry, he complained: "People's morale is bad because they're fed this crap in the papers about foreigners and Europe and anti-this and anti-that".

The former agriculture minister was asked in the interview whether he "grossly misjudged" the problems of

BSE while at the department, and was remarkably candid. Declaring an interest, as president of the Sussex Cattle Breeders Society, he admitted he even failed his biology O level.

"No minister did anything without taking the advice of scientists. If you're asking whether I ever made a mistake, the answer is you could probably write a book of the mistakes I made".

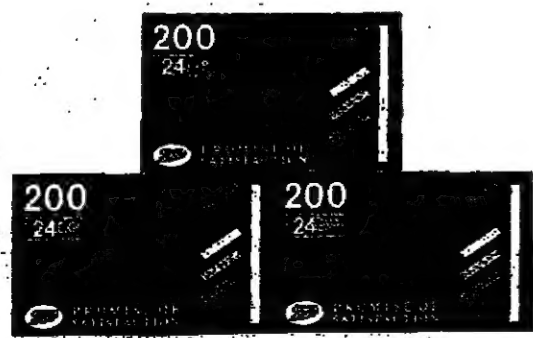
Mr Soames, who is one of Mr Major's most loyal ministers, and a close friend of the Prince of Wales last sparked controversy when he denounced the Princess of Wales after her infamous Panorama interview as possi-

bly "in the advanced stages of paranoia", and "a woman and to the point of mental illness".

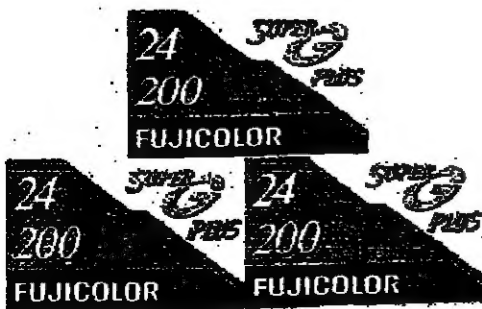
Earlier this week, the row over Europe flared up again when MPs warned the Government that Britain faces tough "battles" with its Continental neighbours over the future shape of the European Union.

The Commons foreign affairs select committee claimed ministers had underestimated how far the other 14 EU member states wanted to press ahead with their federalist agenda, and that Britain faced "isolation" from the rest of the EU over a series of major issues.

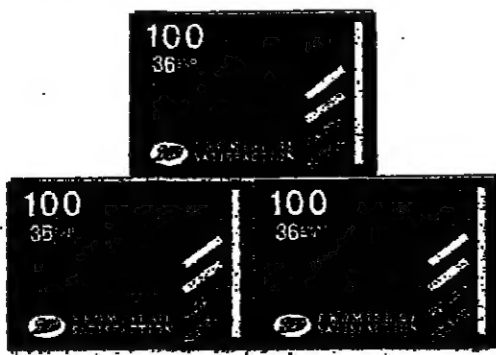
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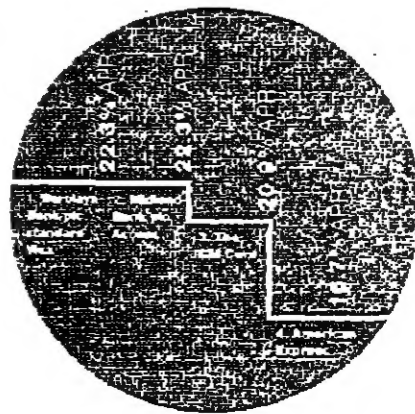
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REPUBLICAN CONVENTION: Wife wins over delegates and TV viewers, setting stage for battle of the First Ladies

'Sugar Lips' gives Dole kiss of life

Martin Walker in San Diego

ELIZABETH Dole launched her own front in the United States presidential campaign yesterday, promising to challenge Hillary Clinton directly as an experienced political activist and former cabinet member, and as a traditional and dutiful wife. "A star is born, along with something new in American politics, the first three-way campaign between presidents, vice-presidents and first ladies," said Norman Ornstein, senior political scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. Mrs Dole, he said, was "Hillary in soft focus, politically accomplished but unthreatening, a woman of power with no harsh feminist edges."

those of her husband and she is almost a hate figure among Republican activists. "Fire the president and her husband too", is a characteristic bumper-sticker on sale at Republican souvenir stands. Mrs Dole spoke of her husband bringing 35 inner-city youngsters home for Thanksgiving dinner. "You never got to hear of it through the media because he never told anybody about it. He did it from his heart. That's the kind of man my husband is." She spoke of their courtship, when he came to her mother's kitchen with a towel draped over his withered arm and shattered shoulder, saying she needed to understand the nature of his wartime handicap before blessing her daughter's marriage. "That's not a handicap, it's a badge of honour," was her mother's reply, a family intimacy shared with millions by the would-be First Lady. She produced a testimonial from a former Democrat saying Mr Dole had protected social security. She called her husband a tax-cutter and complained that President Clinton had vetoed a Medicare bill he helped to draft, then mounted a "multi-million dollar ad campaign to scare our senior citizens".



Elizabeth Dole kisses her husband, and running mate Jack Kemp shakes his hand, as delegates give him the 996 votes needed for the presidential nomination. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID AKE

Sun shines on San Diego as city seduces visitors

Jonathan Freedland in San Diego AFTER the Olympics trashed the reputation of the sweating, congested host city, the Republican convention has done the reverse for San Diego — making it one of the few undisputed winners of this week's political fest. Long ignored or, worse, derided as a glorified suburb of Los Angeles, San Diego has been showered with plaudits for its smooth handling of the greatest logistical challenge outside hosting an Olympiad. Even

better, the 30,000 visiting delegates, politicians and journalists have been seduced by the city. San Diego has gloried in its moment in the sun, which shines near constantly with an average year-round temperature of 70 degrees. Conventioners left sessions to stroll along the waterfront and gaze across the Pacific. No wonder the television weatherman signs off each night, "Life is Good in San Diego". For the 2.7 million locals, last night's coronation of Bob Dole merely bestowed on San Diego the attention

it has long deserved. "Even a lot of people in California don't realise we've been the sixth-largest city in the nation for a long time," said Mayor Susan Golding. But San Diego's hour of glory has been a long time coming. Sacramento and San Francisco had gold, Los Angeles had oil but San Diego had nothing to sell and was overshadowed by its California neighbours.

The city's low self-esteem deepened in 1972 when the Republicans pulled their planned convention away from it six weeks before it

amends. "What we've seen is San Diego's inferiority complex on full display," said Steve Erie, a political scientist. Not that you would know it from the banners and bunting that have decked out the streets and trolley stations in the city centre, all of them carrying the semi-official slogan, America's Finest City. Local cynics — and Democrats — say San Diego doesn't always look this good, and that every main street has been repaved and every lamppost repainted for the convention. Some quip that the Mexicans who

routinely cross the border from Tijuana have been hidden from view for the week. Economic activity has picked up to the extent that the city spent so much luring the Republicans that the convention was the most expensive ever. House prices are rising and the city is wearing itself off the local navy base, replacing defence dollars with new hi-tech industry. The trouble with the San Diego success story is that it's a pretty good advert for the Clinton presidency. And that was hardly the point.

The trouble with its success is that it's a good advert for Clinton's presidency

Panamanian youth dance to new tunes

Musicians are shunning 'gringo' culture in favour of their roots, reports Phil Gunson

WHEN Emilio Reguera was growing up in the provincial town of Chiriqui in the 1960s, a punk hairstyle and a fondness for heavy-metal music were anything but the key to social advancement. "It's a very conservative town, very traditional, and I've always been a bit of a revolutionary," says Emilio. Emilio and his friends, Christian Torres and Javier Saavedra, used to play their music in a bar in exchange for free beer, but the authorities looked askance. "At first it was very difficult," he says. "They associated us with drugs and they'd send the police..."

recently were seen as unfashionably provincial are being blended with what cultural nationalists once dismissed as "gringo music", along with salsa, merengue and other popular dance beats. Mexican bands mix rock with rancheras, the local version of country music, while in Costa Rica a group called Edutis has fused new-age music from California with Latin rhythms. Emilio Reguera says the arrival of MTV Latino from the United States via a programme on a local television channel in the early 1990s was a key development. But Los Rabanes have no difficulty reconciling gringo influences with Panamanian culture. "We can be rebels and all that, but ultimately we

have these traditions inside us," he says. Every Rabanes concert ends with a punk-rock version of a nationalist song from the 1960s, American Colony No! The Canal is Ours. For Panamanian salsa star and Hollywood actor Ruben Blades, whose backing helped to put Los Rabanes on the map, dismisses what others call the threat of gringo cultural penetration. "This isn't the penetration of any damn thing," he says. "I see it as a manifestation of youth." He traces his enthusiasm for rock music to the day when, aged six, he heard Elvis Presley's Heartbreak Hotel on his aunt's record-player. "When people talk about 'gringo music' they see it as imperialist, as a North American invasion," he says. "But it's not 'gringo music', it's a mixture of everything — Mexican, Irish, German, French,

with the music of the Cajuns — Spain with the guitar. "That guitar that Elvis Presley played was an instrument the Arabs originally introduced." But Mr Blades, who himself had to leave Panama for New York to escape obscurity, wants the new generation of Panamanian artists, musicians, film-makers and others to be able to make it at home. Mr Blades, who stood for president of the republic two years ago, is now using the commercial success he achieved in America to promote local talent at home. His latest album, La Rosa de los Vientos (the rose of the winds), was recorded at the new Origen studios in Panama City. "For the first time an album with guaranteed international projection has been recorded in Panama," he says. "Previously, the infrastructure simply didn't exist."

'Blue-blooded conman' with a general love of greenbacks

Christopher Hood in Los Angeles

THE grand old tradition of aristocratic British confidence tricksters has apparently been upheld in the distinguished personage of General Marc Deben-Moss OBE — except that is not his real name, he is no general and he received no Order. It surprises many visiting Britons in California that even today a hearty appreciation of English accents wenders among the natives. The general, or sometimes "Sir" Marc Debenham, or "Colonel" Jonathan Hancock, exploited this to the maximum from his elegant Sunset Boulevard office. Here the silver-haired gentleman, aged 72, dealt in complicated international one-upmanship in which he allegedly transferred \$3 million (£2 million) of other people's money to himself. His case is detailed in 43 pages of testimony filed in a Los Angeles court by a customs agent. The "general" remains in custody, awaiting trial. Police are unsure of his identity. He was arrested at his \$5,700-a-month rented home in a secluded area where, he had explained to his estate agent, he carried out "security council" work. He spoke of his involvement in the "osmium isotope". But his real interest was greenbacks. In one haul, it is alleged, he pocketed \$20,000 via his "Charterhouse Gulf Holdings" for a bogus shipment of Brazilian sugar to a Californian commodities broker. In a \$50,000 deal he is said to have supplied a "sham document from a non-existent bank" in the south Pacific Republic of Nauru. His biggest deal was \$1.5 million said to have been received from an Austrian businessman for 90 million cigarettes for Moscow, a deal that went up in smoke. He was arrested last month when US agents in alleged "General" as he called out "General" as he parked his car. He replied: "That's not me." It seems his response bore at least some element of truth.

The problem with Dartington is that it just can't say no. It caters for any fantasy. John O'Reilly

Review page 7

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News in brief

Abacha sacks military rulers

NIGERIA'S military ruler, General Sani Abacha, has cemented his position by dismissing all military administrators of the country's 30 states. The terse announcement on state television on Wednesday night surprised many people. "We were not expecting it quite like that, but then a strong boss can hire and fire any time," a senior Nigerian journalist said. The change is the most sweeping at state level since Gen Abacha seized power in November 1993 during chaos precipitated by the annulment of elections. The statement named new administrators, who — like their predecessors — are from the middle army rank of colonel or its navy, air-force or police equivalent. They will be sworn in next Wednesday. The administrators are the second tier of authority in Nigeria after the federal government based in Abuja. A senior military officer said those replaced would be assigned other military duties. "This is normal military posting and the commander-in-chief does not owe anyone any explanation," he said. — Reuter.

Indian PM minds his language



Pol Pot 'alive but powerless'

POL POT, the Khmer Rouge guerrilla leader, remains at the head of his movement, but does not command enough men to thwart a breakaway faction seeking peace, according to a dissident guerrilla. Nee, the right-hand man of the breakaway commander Sok Phen, confirmed in an interview that Pol Pot is still alive — contrary to rumours earlier this year — and remains committed to taking power by force. "But our policy is not accordance with

Kaunda aides 'were framed'

EIGHT Zambian opposition leaders charged with treason alleged yesterday that government agents mounted sabotage bombings to blame on their party before elections later this year. A defence lawyer, Sebastian Zulu, at the opening of the trial of the leaders of Kenneth Kaunda's opposition group, said the politicians believed a police bomb-disposal expert killed in one blast on June 6 was planting the device and not attempting to defuse it when he died. He also contended that the officer, Ordon Banda, was drunk when handling the device at Lusaka airport. The attorney-general, George Chilupe, alleged that Jayambo Yeti, Mr Kaunda's deputy in the United National Independence Party, and seven senior aides recruited saboteurs to plant bombs in Lusaka and the central Copperbelt province in May and June to protest against a reworded constitution banning Mr Kaunda from running in elections that must be held before November 1. Four of the eight, three of them former army officers, have been charged with Banda's murder. — AP.

Sweets sicken 300 children

More than 300 children were taken ill in two separate incidents yesterday after eating contaminated sweets in western India during independence day celebrations. Police said the children came from villages close to Bhiwandi, about 75 miles north of Bombay, where 50 people have died from food poisoning. — Reuter.

Snake-point theft

Thieves armed with poisonous rattlesnakes are terrorising residents of Diriamba, southern Nicaragua, the newspaper El Nuevo Diario reported yesterday. — Reuter.

Mass electrocution

Thirty-five people died and another 40 were injured when they were electrocuted after a firework struck a high-voltage cable and knocked it to the ground in Arequipa, southern Peru. — Reuter.

Ciller in Cyprus

The Turkish foreign minister, Tansu Ciller, arrived in northern Cyprus yesterday for talks with the leader of the self-proclaimed Turkish Cypriot state, amid tension along the UN-controlled buffer zone. — Reuter. Leader comment, page 6





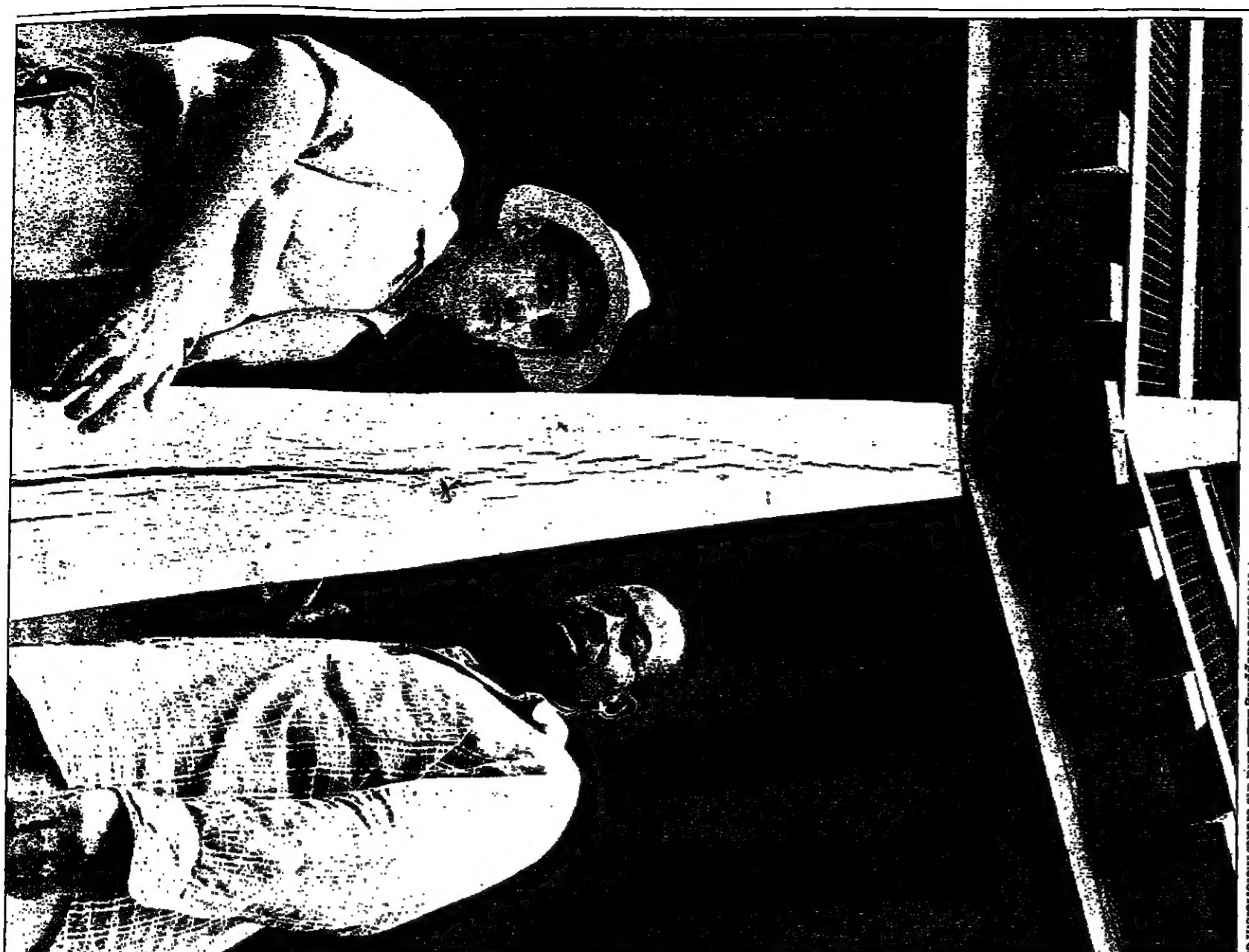






# Global Warfare

Shakespeare's theatre, as rebuilt by the Thames, has its first performance next week. The battle is only just about to begin, says Claire Armitstead



IT ALL began with an American dream. Sam Wanamaker, the actor and director, came to England looking for Shakespeare. When the Globe Theatre had been reconstructed, he found a perfect "void for development". Stranded in London, he had to look for a way to make the theatre perform. He had to look for a way to make the theatre perform. He had to look for a way to make the theatre perform.

The London Dungeons. Where there were bear pits and brothels, now there are railway arches and a new theatre. Nothing prepares you for the shock — after a half-hour tour of the site, you find a half-reconstructed Globe in a quiet street. The theatre is a masterpiece of reconstruction, a blend of old and new. It is a testament to the power of imagination and the desire to bring the past back to life.

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**Doonesbury**

**Doonesbury**

BY GARRY TRUDEAU







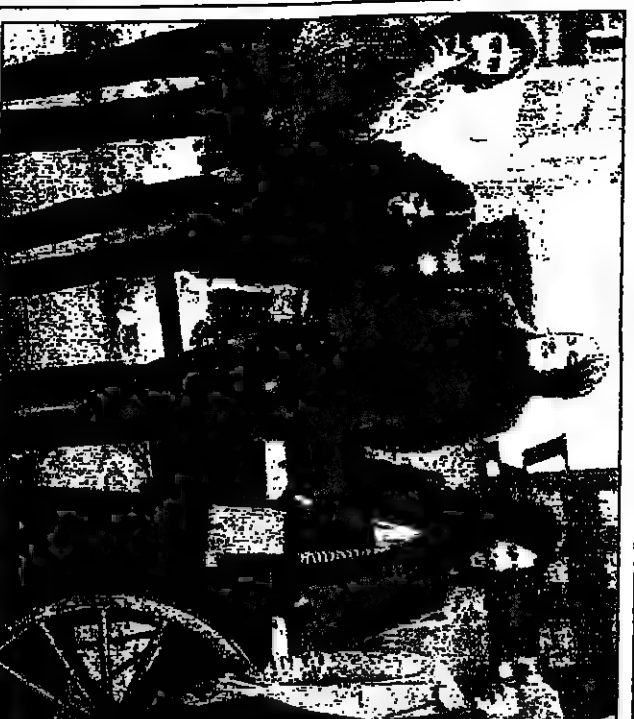








# Music



Peter Green, the inspiration behind the original Fleetwood Mac, has spent 25 years in a wilderness of drugs and mental illness. Now, against impossible odds, he's back. Adam Sweeting reports

## Return from the far side

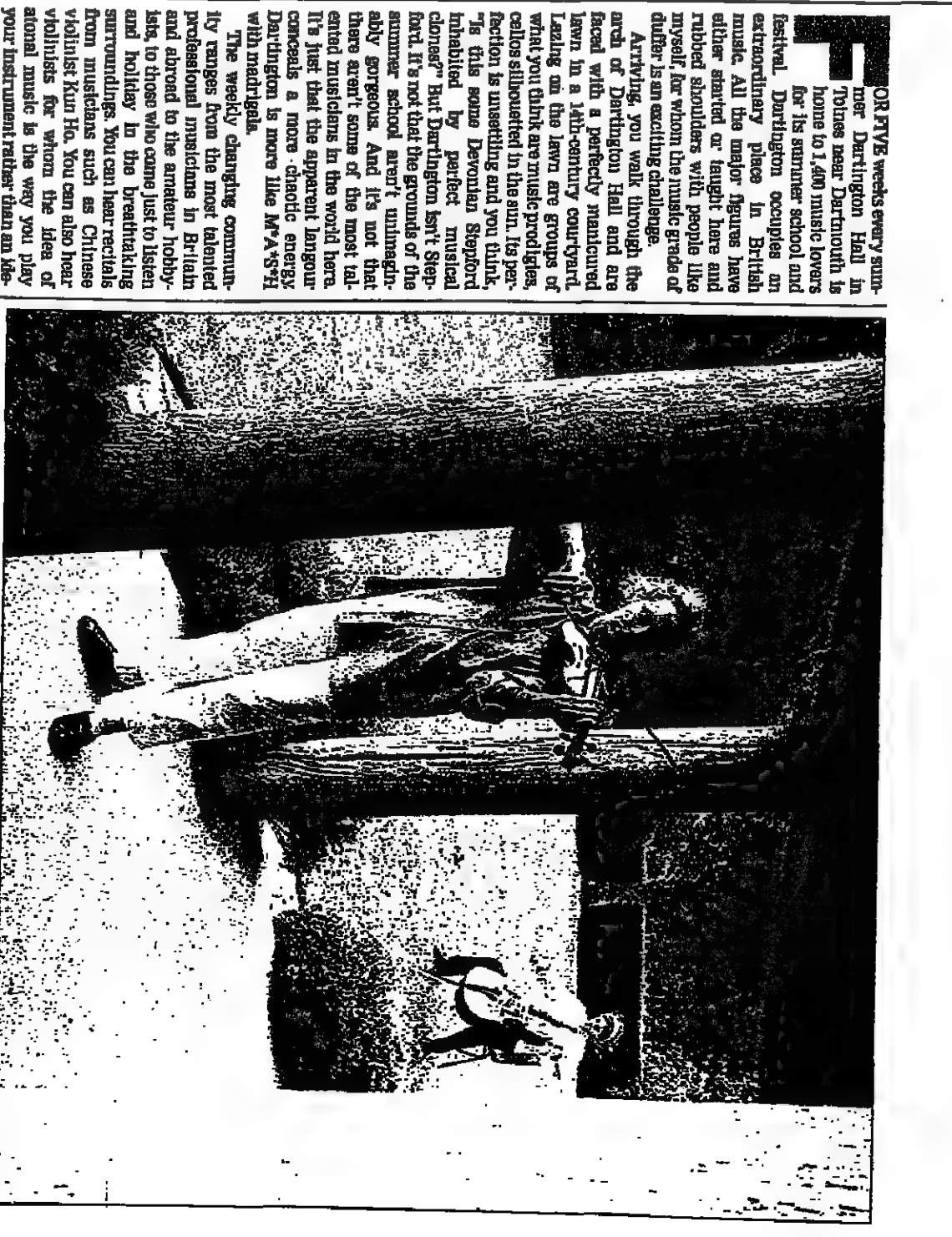
**A**LTHOUGH he has been missing for most of the past 25 years, Peter Green continues to exert a strange fascination over music fans and the record industry. The news that Green is back in harness with a regular band called Shiner Group, and is venturing out on tour has caused a renaissance of anticipation even in our Christened era. The fact that Green will play at the Gullford Folk Festival tomorrow seems barely conceivable, even if he did put in an appearance at the Alexis Korner Cancer Research Trust show in Buxton in May.



wasn't seen again for two years. The bigger the band became — and they were a tiny band — the more indicators were the crises that afflicted them. It was as if Green were the distorted portrait in Mac's attic, throwing his head in shadow over them. He had given up the rock 'n' roll rat-race and insisted that his money be given to charity. Fleetwood Mac carried on without him, and suffered for it.

The Guardian Friday August 18 1988

## Devonshire hills are alive



**Q**UEN'S drummer Roger Taylor had believed a Peter Green comeback was imminent. Meanwhile there were stories that the real Green had become a grave-digger and a hospital porter. After being diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic, he underwent periods of ECT treatment, and was fed medication that left him dull and bloated. In 1977, magistrate Sir Roy Rigby sent Green for a psychiatric treatment order after an incident in which Green apparently threatened his accountant with a rifle, though doubt lingers over whether the incident ever occurred. Its essence which apparently made him consider joining the P.O.

**F**OR FIVE weeks every summer Dartington Hall in Devonshire is home to 1,400 music lovers for its summer school and festival. Dartington occupies an extraordinary place in British music. All the major figures have either studied or taught here and thrived, for whom the music grade of study is an exciting challenge. Arriving, you walk through the arch of Dartington Hall and are faced with a perfectly maintained lawn in a 14th-century courtyard. Lending on the lawn are groups of what you think are music prodigies, cellists labouring in the sun, a jazz trio, a string quartet, and you think, this is some Devonian shepherd inhibited by a poet, musical prodigy that Dartington isn't supposed to be. It's not that the ground of the summer school isn't unimaginably gorgeous. And it's not that there isn't some of the most talented and musical musicians in Britain. It's just that the apparent languor of Dartington is more like the M.A.S.H. with an agenda.

Dartington International Summer School and Festival resumed on 18th August.



# Minister in hiding amid drug threats

David Boresford in Johannesburg

**S**OUTH Africa's minister of justice, Dullah Omar, has had to move his family to a safe house amid growing fears that recent vigilante violence masks a drive for power by Islamic extremists.

Mr Omar, who was confronted at his home by a militant Muslim group earlier this year and given 60 days to take legal action against drug merchants, said he had moved to protect his family. He said on television he would return to his own house "once the situation is normalised".

A ministry spokesman, Paul Setsetse, yesterday refused to say whether the threats came from gang members or from supporters of People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad). Pagad has denied it made any threats.

Another cabinet member said he had also received an ultimatum. The police minister, Sydney Mufamadi, said he had refused to meet representatives of a drug syndicate, The Firm, which had warned him to agree to talks or face a backlash.

The security scare adds to concern that Muslim militants with a political and religious agenda are exploiting a law-and-order backlash in South Africa resulting from a collapse in effective policing.

Pagad, the vigilante organisation which sprang into

prominence earlier this month with the lynching of a notorious gang leader in Cape Town — has heatedly denied it is a front organisation for Muslim fundamentalists. But it is believed to be effectively led by a militant organisation called "Qibla", founded in 1979 to campaign for the creation of an Islamic state.

Shortly before the 1994 majority-rule elections, Qibla's leader, Achmet Cassim, predicted that South Africa would be Islamic by the turn of the century.

He has set up a new organisation, the Islamic Unity Convention, which claims to represent 250 Muslim groups but which appears to be a front for Qibla. The IUC has set up its own community radio station on the Cape Flats — the mixed race areas where the clashes between vigilantes and gangs have been focused.

Qibla's chances of an Islamic revolution are slim: the Muslim community comprises less than 2 per cent of South Africa's population. Nevertheless, its quickness to exploit public frustration over endemic crime adds to the pressure on President Nelson Mandela for a law and order crackdown.

The South African rand yesterday equalled its all-time April low of 4.565 against the American dollar. Currency dealers blamed the fall on importers buying dollars to cover payment for future deliveries of goods.

The rand has lost a quarter of its value against the dollar since mid-February.



A member of 'The Americans' gang watches as police raid the home of an alleged drug dealer in Valhalla Park, Cape Town, where community vigilante groups have declared war on gang members and drug pushers. PHOTOGRAPH: SABA/KPAAI

# Old power meets new money in Yeltsin cabinet

Our correspondent and agencies in Moscow

**B**ORIS YELTSIN has given his blessing to the marriage of new money and old power by appointing one of Russia's most powerful commercial bankers, Vladimir Potanin, to a key government post.

The 35-year-old head of Uneximbank will be joined as a first deputy prime minister by Viktor Ilyushin, a former senior aide to President Yeltsin, and Alexei Bolshakov, previously in charge of relations with other former Soviet republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Unveiling the new cabinet yesterday, the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, said Mr Bolshakov, who joined the government in November 1994, would be the senior first deputy prime minister and would deputise for him.

The new cabinet will put paid to speculation since Mr Yeltsin's re-election that he would seek the help of his communist-dictatorial opponents on economic reform and offer them a significant role in the cabinet.

Alexander Livshits replaces Vladimir Panskov as finance minister. Oleg Davydov, Russia's chief debt negotiator, retained the foreign trade portfolio.

Mr Chernomyrdin was confirmed by parliament as head of the new government at the weekend by a comfortable 314 to 85 votes.

Mr Potanin's appointment may raise questions of a conflict of interest, because Uneximbank gained control of the gigantic Norilsk Nickel metals combine last year in the government's controversial loans-for-shares auctions.

The Switzerland-based Uneximbank notes a rare stamp of approval from the Swiss authorities for a Russian financial group.

Having made contacts as a bureaucrat in the Russian foreign trade ministry, Mr Potanin branched into business and registered Uneximbank in 1993. It is now



Vladimir Potanin: backed Mr Yeltsin for a new term

one of the world's thousand biggest banks.

Mr Potanin was one of the leading proponents of the loans-for-shares programme. Uneximbank organised the "auction" of a third of Norilsk Nickel's shares, made three of the bids, disqualified the fourth, and won trusteeship of the stock for a little over £100 million, a fraction over the minimum price.

There was no suggestion of Uneximbank having operated illegally, but the inclusion of Mr Potanin in the government opens the door for even closer arranged alliances between Russia's new financial empire and its lucrative but investment-starved raw-materials sector.

Mr Potanin was one of the "group of 13" bankers and industrialists who backed Mr Yeltsin for a second term. A growing number of patriotic economists may raise questions of a conflict of interest, because Uneximbank gained control of the gigantic Norilsk Nickel metals combine last year in the government's controversial loans-for-shares auctions.

The Switzerland-based Uneximbank notes a rare stamp of approval from the Swiss authorities for a Russian financial group.

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# Isolation ends as plane flies in

Julian Borger in Zagreb

**S**ARAJEVO'S airport reopened to international traffic yesterday, when a Boeing 737 from Istanbul became the first commercial flight to touch down in more than four years.

Bosnia's president, Alija Izetbegovic, declared the airport open, standing alongside the United States secretary of state, Warren Christopher, who flew in yesterday on a pre-election tour of the Balkans.

"Step by step, Sarajevo's isolation is coming to an end," Mr Christopher said. "The horizons which were shrunk by four years of hatred and war are once again lifted."

The inaugural flight was organised by Air Bosna, the Bosnian national airline, using a Turkish plane. Turkish pilots will fly the twice-weekly Sarajevo-Istanbul route, once more linking the Bosnian capital with its former metropolis from the days of the Ottoman empire.

Croatia Airlines also plans a once-weekly flight between Zagreb and Sarajevo on a propeller plane. Air Bosna is hoping eventually to establish links with Germany and Scandinavia, which host the main concentrations of Bosnian refugees.

Nato will continue to have overall control of the airport and Bosnian airspace, at least until Christmas when its present peacekeeping mandate expires. The Bosnian

government will operate customs and immigration facilities.

Mines have been cleared from the airfield and the runways have been repaired, but the pre-war terminal buildings were damaged by shell-fire during the conflict and, it is stated, that proper toilets were built before the reopening ceremony.

"I told them: No bathrooms, no airport," Richard Sclar, the US special representative for Bosnia reconstruction, told journalists this week.

For now, pilots will have to land by sight only — electronic navigational aids will be installed as part of the second \$17 million — or reconstruction phase, half of which will be funded by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. This is expected to be completed by next summer.

During the 43-month siege of Sarajevo, the airport was under UN control and was the only way in and out of the city. UN-approved passengers could board flights on transport planes.

Bosnians crept through an 800-yard tunnel under the airfield to government-controlled territory on the other side. The tunnel has since been filled. Nato engineers said to prevent subsidence beneath the runways.

# Police evacuate campers in Spain to avert flood threat

AP in Valencia

**F**EARING another possible flood disaster, police helped to evacuate more than 600 people from campsites yesterday after warnings of heavy rains in eastern Spain.

With authorities warning that expected rains might cause the River Turia to flood, holidaymakers were evacuated from at least three sites in the eastern coastal region of Valencia and provided with temporary lodging in public halls and warehouses in nearby towns, a spokesman for Valencia's emergency services department said.

The rains, however, turned out to be lighter than predicted and the evacuees later returned to the campsites, the spokesman said.

At least 85 people died in flash flooding in a campsite in the Spanish Pyrenees on August 7. Since then, authorities have been put on alert to avert other potential flooding tragedies.

In France, a report by the environmental ministry leaked this week said hundreds of thousands of holidaymakers are at risk in French camping sites. At least 4,000 campsites are potentially unsafe because of the threat of natural or man-made disasters, the report said.

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## A credibility gap

Justice must clearly be seen to be done

THE new commission to investigate miscarriages of justice was already under a cloud — over delays in its establishment, the widening of its remit to sentences and minor offences, and its ill-defined duties in terms of how it should work. Yet, until our front page story yesterday, expectations still remained high in the hearts of most reformers. A protracted campaign which only ignited after a succession of wrongful convictions — among them the Guildford Four, Birmingham Six and Maguire Seven — exposed serious faults in the criminal justice system, including police perjury and false forensic evidence, was moving to a conclusion. Belatedly but finally, the review of suspected miscarriages of justice was being removed from C3 division in the Home Office — as the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice recommended in 1993 — and given independent status. But now, even before its 10 other commissioners have been appointed, its credibility has been ruined. Unbelievably, the Government has appointed a senior mason to its chairmanship.

No one is questioning Sir Frederick Crawford's integrity. He may not even be aware of a ritual vow of the Holy Royal Arch pledging a bond even with "represensible" brothers, although as an office bearer in this elite order of masons this seems unlikely. The precise meaning of the vow is immaterial. What is wrong is that a body, which has been set up to restore confidence in the criminal justice system, has been given a chairman who is a member of an organisation which has been accused of secrecy and unaccountable influence.

Masonic membership within the police was widespread. But 10 years ago Sir Kenneth Newman, the then Metropolitan Commissioner, warned police officers of the dangers of joining the masons because "a freemason's oath

holds inevitably the implication that loyalty to fellow freemasons may supersede any other loyalty". His two successors have followed the same line. Many officers are believed to have left the order having read the signals but many remain. Three years ago a delegate to the Police Federation conference tried unsuccessfully to get masonic membership declared incompatible with the office of constable. Less than a year ago the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) called on all officers who remained masons to declare their membership. In its annual report published last month, it referred to a number of complainants who "clearly feel that Freemasonry may have affected the way in which their cases were investigated". No PCA member is a mason. Both the Nolan Committee and the Commons Home Affairs select committee have said they will investigate masonic influence.

Against this background, the appointment of Sir Frederick seems incomprehensible. Consider the difficult decisions he is going to have to take. Only a small proportion of miscarriage claims is going to be upheld. It is crucial the body which rejects them is seen to be squeaky clean. It will have to withstand all manner of criticisms. No one doubts that Sir Frederick would administer the system with fairness and effectiveness. But every decision would be open to accusations that the masons had had a hand in it. He ought to have recognised his masonic membership was incompatible with his new post and resigned from his lodge on his appointment. But it is too late for that now. The very people whose trust he needed to win — defence lawyers, civil rights groups, Opposition MPs — were signalling their disapproval of his appointment yesterday. They are right. His appointment is unacceptable. If he believes in restoring faith in the criminal justice system, he should resign from the Commission.

## Danger on the Green line

Impartial mediation is needed between Greeks and Turks

ETHNIC cleansing and national partition were facts of life in Cyprus two decades before they emerged in Bosnia. The longevity of the crisis, the repeated failure of mediation, and the achievement of a spurious stability, made this an issue which faded away for years at a time. Wednesday's killing on the Green line and the escalation of tension is emphatic proof to the contrary. Dormant tension may present a greater danger when it flares up — because no one is used to putting out the flames.

What happened on Wednesday could be a metaphor for the whole story since 1974. Both sides must share blame for the incident, just as their historical responsibility is inextricably mixed. Although we date the crisis back to the Turkish invasion, it must be recognised that over the previous decade the Greek Cypriots had been mainly responsible for inter-communal violence. The action of the Turkish forces, in firing on an unarmed Greek Cypriot as he lowered their flag, is quite disproportionate to the offence. But the original violation of the UN-controlled buffer zone last weekend by Greek Cypriot motorcyclists and demonstrators had only been feebly opposed by their government. This led to the first civilian death and in turn to Wednesday's second provocation. Those who organise such chauvinist displays, to applause in the Greek press, cannot plead justification in recent Turkish behaviour: they are sheer summer madness. For well over a decade, attempts to

promote a meaningful dialogue have flourished in suspicion and intransigence on both sides. An agreed formula exists on paper: Cyprus should become a federation of two entities, both of which would have devolved powers. Behind the shared words lie conflicting goals. The Turkish side emphasises the bi-zonal character of such an arrangement, and envisages a loose association amounting to confederation, while the Greek side seeks a strong central government. Beyond this divergence stretches a string of difficult issues: the percentage of land to be occupied by the Turkish Cypriots, the fate of missing persons, the return of refugees — and now future relations with the European Union. Richard Holbrooke's peace-making effort in January soon ran into the ground. The current effort by Sir David Hannay seems equally doomed: he is reduced to stating the obvious: "the real problem is a lack of trust."

Over the years, Western policy on Cyprus has shown a fitful and not always consistent concern. Little interest was shown when it might have been possible to defend the island's unity. Turkey was treated with indulgence because of its frontier role in cold war containment. Recently the Greek case has attracted more sympathy from the EU countries. The task must be to mediate impartially and to strengthen the UN position on the Green line. There are no radical solutions, only an urgent need to work out practical ways of living together in the same house.

## A gently swelling population

Although we're lean and lithe by American standards

DROP THAT spoon! Throw away those puddings, pastries and pies, and don't even think of asking for seconds. As if fat cats weren't bad enough, we're rapidly becoming a nation of porkers. Official figures show that 13 per cent of men and 16 per cent of women in Britain are obese, double the 1987 numbers. If this goes on, by 2005 the seriously-obese count will claim one quarter of the population.

It could be worse than that. Since 1987 there have been a string of health scares to take the edge off the appetite, notably eggs (salmonella), poultry (listeria), cheese (listeria again), yoghurt (botulism), and of course beef, sheep, and now lamb's mince (BSE). The growth in obesity would be welcomed as the triumph of the plucky guzzler over adversity, were it not that being so heavy can lead to heart disease, stroke, diabetes, high blood pressure, osteoporosis, depression... the list goes on.

Poor diet is only part of the problem; lack of exercise is important. The Health Education Authority is fighting a rearguard action to get people off the couch and onto bikes, but it is quite a task. The army complains that it increasingly has to turn away would-be squaddies because they are out of shape, and the HEA's own research shows that one third of men, and two thirds of women, cannot "walk up a slight slope at a reasonable pace." Still, we're skinny by American standards; half the US population is obese and on present trends, the entire population could be so by 2030. The younger generation is the biggest problem. Take the race to the White House: at 73, Bob Dole is almost a quarter of a century older than President Clinton, but with less body fat, cholesterol and lower blood pressure, his life expectancy is only 11 years less than the president. So much for motherhood and apple pie.



## Letters to the Editor

### Lessons in the A-level results

I HAVE been an A Level examiner in English for over 20 years. In the future over increasingly good A Level results (Scramble after A level record, August 15), some important points have been ignored.

Firstly, there are fewer very poor candidates. In the 1970s and 80s there were frequently candidates who did little more than write their names on the paper. In recent years, financial restraints and awareness of the importance of conscientious teaching have led to far fewer candidates being entered for the examinations who stand no chance of passing. This at least partly explains the improvement in pass rates.

Secondly, examiners have been taught to use the whole mark range. Full marks were once quite rare. Now an examiner is expected to reward appropriately an 18-year-old who has achieved the best that can be reasonably expected under examination conditions. This has resulted

in a fairer spread of marks and more accurate results. The lesson of this is one that universities, who rarely give marks above 75 per cent, have yet to learn.

Finally, although to gain an A grade is an achievement, it is, and always has been, a limited one. Some universities nowadays may be willing to accept candidates with two E grades but that is surely a measure of their own desperation rather than proof of a decline in the ability of the candidates.

Jean Evans,  
26 Alpraham Crescent,  
Upton, Chester CH2 1QX.

results but that exams are getting easier. Having got through my exams with good results and achieved a place at university I am understandably pleased with myself. The carping of these eternal sceptics serves no point but to rubbish our success, which should surely be celebrated. Has it occurred to anyone that, knowing the difficulty of finding jobs, A level students are actually working harder? Or has it been considered that our teachers are doing their jobs better than ever?

Louise Finer,  
15 Southdown Road,  
Harpenden,  
Herts AL5 1PD.

I WAS astonished to read (A level success may bring shake up, August 14) that some Government Ministers were considering a manifesto pledge to change the examination board system after a further sharp improvement in the A level pass rate. At least Gillian Shepherd, the Educa-

tion and Employment Secretary, has attributed credit where it is due in saying: "It is about time these doom and gloom merchants shut up and recognised the achievements of the candidates, and of the parents and teachers who have supported them." A Welsh Office document, A Bright Future, in emphasising improvements in schools examination performances, has set within its targets for the year 2000 the expectation that by age 21, 80 per cent of young people would have achieved two A levels, an advance GNVQ or an NVQ level 3. Gillian Shepherd's colleagues have helped to set those targets, and yet when teachers bring schools' performances closer to those aims those very ministers begrudge them. Do they not read their own documents? James F Hynes,  
Vice-chair of governors,  
The Alun Comprehensive School,  
85 Florida Centre,  
Mold, Flintshire.

### The meaning of stress

GERRY Malone, Minister for Health, asks: "What's stress?" (Guardian Health, August 13). I will tell him.

Stress is watching your husband who is suffering from multi-infarct dementia weep and beg to be taken "out of this dreadful place" (an NHS hospital), seeing him become ever weaker and more agitated and confused as he is shifted from one bed to another in a surgical ward because there is no bed available elsewhere, knowing that he is gradually starving to death since the nurses have no time to persuade him or help him to eat, knowing too that he can't handle his asthma inhalers properly without assistance.

Stress is never being able to speak to the doctor in charge of the case, getting no help from Social Services who are forever about to "assess" needs but never managing to do so, and hence being afraid to bring your husband home in case you can't cope on your own.

Stress is trying to find a suitable nursing-home bed at short notice, wondering how long one can afford £360 a week and still keep one's own home going.

Stress is watching your husband die, after six days in a nursing home, following a severe asthma attack, and feeling that you had somehow abandoned him to this fate.

Stress is the agony of bereavement.  
Peggy Wiberley,  
7 Upper Bridge Street,  
Wye, Ashford,  
Kent TN25 5AW.

### Demonisation

CURRENT Tory "scare" propaganda against Labour is exemplified by an anonymous Conservative spokesman on the grounds that: "The advert is not intended to appeal to the sneering so-called intellectuals of Islington" (Church criticises Tory "demon" attack, August 13). We've heard this before, from Adolf Hitler, in Mein Kampf.

The more modest scientific tenor of this propaganda and the more it is addressed exclusively to public sentiment the more decisive its success. This is the best test of the value of a propaganda, and not the approbation of a small group of intellectuals and artistic people." Professor Edgar Wilson,  
29 Heath End Road,  
Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent,  
Staffs ST7 2SQ.

### Ban and bluff

STEPHEN Young (India Scuppern test ban treaty, August 15) is correct when he argues that a test ban treaty will not be concluded this year unless the nuclear powers find the political will to offer constructive and realistic solutions to the deadlock that currently exists at Geneva.

Britain has a particular responsibility, it was the intransigence of the present Government which helped to produce the current deadlock. Britain's insistence that India, amongst others, must sign up to the treaty before it comes into force was unprecedented, and opposed by the great majority of observers, including the Labour Party, as well as Security Council members France and the US.

If India really is committed to achieving a truly verifiable and effective comprehensive test ban treaty, it is possible that a series of pledges by all five nuclear powers could provide the breakthrough that is so desperately needed. These could include a joint and explicit declaration by all five nuclear powers to the effect that they have no intentions of testing again, even without a treaty, and a commitment to effectively call India's bluff and would place a strong onus on India not to test.

The Labour Party has already called on each of the nuclear weapon states to issue regular reports outlining what steps they are taking to move the disarmament process forward. Labour has committed itself in government not to deploy more nuclear warheads on Trident than on Polaris, and the present Government ought to regular reports outlining what steps they are taking to move the disarmament process forward. Labour has committed itself in government not to deploy more nuclear warheads on Trident than on Polaris, and the present Government ought to regular reports outlining what steps they are taking to move the disarmament process forward.

While troops and shuttle diplomacy can be of vital importance, their use indicates that a conflict prevention policy is already close to failure, since any such policy should take a long-term approach that is designed to prevent potential tensions from escalating into crisis.

The essence of a long-term approach lies in addressing the root causes of instability in

### Risks of marrying in haste

YOU ARE right to poke fun at the new wedding "vows" (in quickness and in health, August 15). I find it bizarre that politicians, Churchmen and, yes, the media argue interminably about whether it is too easy for married couples to get divorced without apparently asking themselves whether it may not be too easy to get married in the first place.

How can this latest piece of parliamentary buffoonery have been slipped through by virtue of a private member's bill without proper debate? What were all the guarantees of the sanctity of marriage doing that afternoon? Any government that really cared about the horrendous consequences of our high divorce rate, for the family and society generally, ought to be looking for ways not to facilitate marriage to the point where it becomes a joke but rather to make it harder to enter into (as well as more financially advantageous). You cannot cheapen the act of commitment without encouraging people to withdraw from it when the going gets rough.

David Gladstone,  
3 Mountfort Terrace,  
London N1 1JJ.

### In conflict over prevention

JONATHAN Byal (Conflict of interest, August 12) presents conflict prevention as a proposition that is bound to fall victim to the myopic foreign policies of nation-states. For those who are trying to build support for the proposition, the arguments are depressingly familiar. Equally familiar is the automatic assumption that conflict prevention implies crisis mediation and troop deployments.

While troops and shuttle diplomacy can be of vital importance, their use indicates that a conflict prevention policy is already close to failure, since any such policy should take a long-term approach that is designed to prevent potential tensions from escalating into crisis.

The essence of a long-term approach lies in addressing the root causes of instability in

### Trustee ethics

THE report in Money Guardian (Charities set to give investments ethical dimension, August 10) is misleading. The courts have made it plain that trustees are justified in taking into account ethical as well as financial investment principles only when the proposed investments are contrary to the objects of the charity, unacceptable to the beneficiaries, or might result in reduced donations or otherwise hamper the work of the charity.

The assertion in your report that "trustees have a right to take ethical considerations into account even when this could be financially detrimental to the charity" applies only when the consideration of a particular investment is clearly inconsistent with the objects of a charity. For example the trustees of a temperance charity would not be expected to consider investment in a brewery. Any charity trustee following your advice in other circumstances may be acting in breach of trust.

In all other cases the trustees may only exclude the investment from consideration if this would result in no significant financial detriment to the charity.

R J Frier,  
Chief Charities Commissioner,  
Charity Commission,  
57-59 Haymarket,  
London SW1Y 4QX.

### A Country Diary

AUSTRIA: The comedy high point of this year's fact-finding mission on bicycles down the Danube cycle track from Passau to Vienna would have to be my accidental early morning turn out of the City of Linz fire brigade. In the subterranean gloom of the hotel garage and seeking to open the door for an early start I pressed the wrong red button with an unfortunate automated result. That apart, the five day ride down the track, which hugs the bank of the Danube (grey green rather than blue) was a great success. Going gently downhill, 40 miles a day is not excessive. From Passau the river runs through high wooded hills. The massive barges, which can take cargo from Hungary to the Rhine, manoeuvred carefully round the acute bend at Schloggen. We passed through Mauthausen and stopped there for coffee. Fifty years on from the horror of its infancy as a concentration camp site, the most prominent commercial occupier of the village is McDonalds, the fast food chain

On the plateau which followed, the onion bulb domes atop the white country churches of Habsburg Catholicism dotted the well-farmed landscape. Sunflowers and maize were the dominant crops at this level before we dropped to the height at which the vine becomes cultivable. Behind a big stand of maize a deer paced to seclusion as our cycles came quietly along the track. No fences delineate this arable land, the crops run into each other with only narrow soil margins. Livestock were on summer pasture high on the surrounding hills and some at all were to be seen from the track beside the river. The most delightful stretch was the morning ride from Melk to Krems — through the terraced vineyards of Austria's best known Riesling area, with swallows wheeling overhead. The grapes were a long way from the vintage but the apricots were at their peak and boxes of them were being assembled at the roadside by groups of family pickers.

COLIN LYCKHURST

### Hidden meaning in a string of numbers

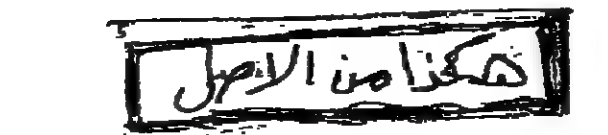
THE reason that telephone numbers are so long here (Letters August 15) is that the UK uses structured, meaningful numbering. This inevitably creates volumes of redundant numbers. For example, areas of small population have their own dialling codes even though much of their capacity will never be used. Non-significant numbering, in which groups of digits are not given meaning, is

much more efficient. Sorting out what the number identifies is then done where it should be: not in the number but in a computer.

Andrew Osborne,  
Article Number Association,  
11 Kingsway,  
London WC2B 6AR.

Cluten's claim about the US's 10-digit telephone number compared to the UK's 11-digit number fails to recognise that the US commonly omits the long-distance access number (1 in the UK, 0 in the UK). A New York number of 1-212-123-6667 has the same number of digits as London's 0171 123 4567.

Howell Huws,  
122 Fawnbrake Avenue,  
London SE24 0BZ.





Of-love boy return

Diary Matthew Norman

THE Diary is horrified to learn that a new organisation called "the Penal League for Howard Reform" is to be inaugurated next month. Its purpose is "to accelerate the political demise" of Michael Howard...

IN the midst of so troubled a summer, it is reassuring to note that the Royal Mail's managing director is on top of things. Richard Dyke, in a BBC1 breakfast programme yesterday to discuss the strikes...

WITH the football season beginning tomorrow, I am intrigued to note that the name of American brewer Coors will again appear on the shirts of Chelsea, the club which, in the great Rund Gullit, has just become the first in the league to employ a black manager...

ASTONISHMENT strikes New Labour. On Wednesday night, to celebrate the selection of Blairite high flier Fraser Kemp as a parliamentary candidate, the wickets from Millbank Tower invaded the Marquis of Granby, a Westminster pub. Patsy Prescott was already there, doing a bit of morale boosting...

MEANWHILE, in a unwonted attack of paranoia, New Labour refuses to be involved in a Panorama on the spin doctors which BBC1 intends to broadcast during the conference season. The party's own term for this non-cooperation is "passive resistance"...

HALLELUJAH! In America, the Church of Kurt Cobain in Oregon has celebrated its first service. The 30-strong congregation was led by "Pastor" Jim Dillon, a publishing executive, so Company magazine reports, while the innate conventionality of the occasion was underlined when worshippers were advised not to take drugs or commit suicide.



One-way street in downtown US

Commentary Peter Preston

TIME to get serious. We've had the wretched silver medalist from Atlanta. We've had blonde ex-Supermodel, chat-show hostess and mother of five, Kim Alexis. We've had Miss America 1995. Now the most formidable political intelligence of the last two decades has a few words for the Republican convention...

James A Baker III helped Gerald Ford to survive when the presidency came calling in crisis. Essentially, Jim Baker invented George Bush and his campaignings. Jim Baker rescued Ronald Reagan from disaster as White House Chief of Staff. He served President Bush as a notably effective Secretary of State. Jim Baker, on record or experience or potential, ought to be the next president himself. Instead he has five minutes to talk about foreign policy...

Jim Baker does his best. He signs up for Star Wars and gets his cheers blazing the folly of "letting our American

forces wear UN uniforms". But his scathing account of the early Clinton efforts at foreign policy - "Gullible's Travels" - has a rare edge: and John Major must love Baker's scorn for presidents who dabble and sup with the IRA. It would be great if any body was listening. But the delegates, as always, are yacking away and picking their noses. Foreign affairs? Total Yawnsville, man.

What is it that makes some men leaders of the United States and some, far brighter men mere kings of the backroom? Baker is a decent, well-spoken speaker, better than George Bush, flapping plaintively away. He tells jokes better than Gerry Ford. But there is absolutely no convention magic to him. He won't quite demean himself.

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between what Jim can't be and what Bob must be seems to me to lie at the heart of San Diego. The convention itself, even by modern British standards, has been a farce. No visible debater, endless hoopla; a succession of identikit dignitaries reading the same tight script; constant use of video testimony from "ordinary people" far away to put the political words into non-political mouths.

Tony Blair, you feel, must be somewhere at the back there, taking notes. Clare Short only on a video you can pre-edit? The Walworth Road Dream.

But the media circus - the avid in relentless pursuit of the rapid - deserves to be understood as well gassed and goggled over. The men in the backroom, doing the job Jim used to do, are utterly professional. It isn't a matter of conflicted patriotism; though there is plenty of that around. The basic job is burrowing the myth of America which is not a myth in most American minds.

This (compare and contrast Great Britain) is a genuinely patriotic country. It believes and wallows in national pride. It feels, here and now, that it has much to be proud about. It wears its heart on its sleeve. And the geography of the stretching States, moreover, produces a feeling of actual community which provides a second strand of pride. The slogans of Bourne-

mouth or Blackpool have an innocent reality to them in California.

There have, this week, been reports of watching Tory spin doctors in the shadows. Not sighted personally, but I'm sure they're around. Can the message of family and simple morality and tax cuts be hurled for British consumption? Mr Major and Mr Blair would seem to be dancing on the same tiny stage.

But messages, unlike media techniques, are much more difficult to expand. Most of them are marked only in America. And the insularity is all-embracing. We have had perhaps 20 minutes on lands beyond the US in four days of constant talk. Most of that has been about China, Cuba - and a North Korea with a missile which could reach Honolulu. Only Baker had a sentence which confirmed Britain's continuing existence. That isn't shocking: it is merely a description of the way things are. It defines the American mood. It also, in turn, limits London relevance. They have ceased to care about us, because the gold star is over and eyes are turned inwards. We, too, have ceased to care so much about them, because Europe is a train ride away. Any thought that Washington offers some substitute glory is tough. Virtual irrelevance is a two-way street. The Republicans are the

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Clare Short changes her tune

nasty party, with some particularly nasty manifesto words about juvenile crime and immigration. They haven't turned suddenly nice because of all the smiles in San Diego. The rift on abortion runs viscerally deep. To that extent, I hope they go on to lose in November. They probably will. Mr Dole, give or take the occasional decent speech, is not an electrifying campaigner. He is also an old man: the war he was a hero in ended 51 years ago, the new millennium would dawn unsteadily with a 77-year-old in the Oval Office. His candidacy was an accident, a ritual donation of seniority after the success of the mid-term elections. The task of turning him into a warmer, younger visionary will probably be a marketing challenge too far.

But if he loses, it will be because Mr Clinton has re-born himself as a younger version of a Republican President. Chicago, in a couple of weeks, won't offer any great differences of style or deftly different of pace, when the tax cuts unbind him. Will sleaze grease his slipway? Will the buoyancy of the economy fade?

Clinton would have no difficulty with the question Jim Baker flunked. He is the campaigner incarnate. It is what he does. If the Republicans have had a good TV show in San Diego, the Democrats will make Chicago into Hollywood. Hillary, after Liddy Dole, will get a speaking part. But Warren Christopher? The tiny, wizened Secretary of State may, I suppose, get three minutes between the two. Goldstar and the women's softball gold medalists.

But the echoes from the Republicans will be eerie: echoes from a foreign country of which we know much but understand very little. And brothers, it's mutual.

Clare Short changes her tune



Bel Littlejohn

BELIEVE me, we sang our guts out. That's me, Clare, John, Peter, Barbara and Ken, and up to half a million others. You should've heard us. "So, Sally can't wait. She knows it's too late" we belted, totally without songbooks. "She da di da-da-a-a!" You've got to hand it to Noel and Liam: classic rock choruses don't come more memorable than those of copy cats and Johnny One-Notes. I've been subject to wilful misinterpretation by the Conservatoire media. "I have the greatest respect and admiration for Oasis, particularly their brilliant song, I Wanna Hold Your Hand, which they will begin writing next year."

As you've probably guessed by now, I'm talking Knebworth and I'm talking last weekend. Knebworth? The name has a magical ring to it, the "Kneb" very nicely rhyming with "Fab", and the "Worth" not just rhyming with "Worth" but actually being "Worth", thus indicating that, as festivals go, this one is always really worth it - just so long as there's not a crap band playing.

My first Knebworth was the Floyd, back in '77, on their Money. It's a Crime tour, which grossed a record 8 million worldwide, excluding on-site merchandising such as sales of special Punk Floyd Money. It's a Crime found notes (£1.50) and We Don't Need No Education sweat-shirts (£2.50, or £3.50 for the unemployed). It was at a time when the Labour Party was just beginning to realise the value of reaching out to touch the young, so Fred Mulley and Denis Howell were deputised by Jim Callaghan to "spread the word" on a special fact-finding mission of Knebworth. The two of them were welcomed onstage by the Floyd, and the rest is history; to background music by Waters and Gilmour and a full light-show with state-of-the-art psychedelic bubbles. Mulley read out a two-hour draft discussion document on the future of the Common Fisheries Policy. It proved to be the most exciting gig the Floyd have ever played.

Flash forward to 1983, when the Labour Party and the nation's rock musicians cemented their ties with the formation of Red Wedge. I am proud to say that my own public relations company, Bel and Friends, handled all the publicity for this historical grouping, and at its launch at the House of Commons, Roy Hattersley and I on double-kazoo accompanied Billy Bragg as he sang, "England really needs Michael Foot." We don't care whether he wears a donkey jacket or a suit! He'll certainly share out the loot, let's give Thatcher the boot, let's the working class for who PETER Mandelson wrapped up well for Knebworth: he gets a little chilly ever since he lent his moustache to Noel Gallagher for use as a pair of winter eyebrows. The Follets made great efforts to be entirely democratic by hiring an extra coach for their household staff, the price of their tickets to be set against the completion of the requisite number of kitchen chores. And Clare, of course, sang her guts out, only once or twice having to alter her lyrics after a swift but gentle kick in the shins from Peter. "So, Sally can't wait. She knows it's too late. In fact, it's not too late, and actually I wholly agree with Sally that she can wait as long as she likes, da da di da-a-a, she crooned. Magic. Da da di da-a-a! That's a vision of New Labour that, just this once, we can all share.

The number of children available for adoption is falling steadily in the wake of contraception and increased abortion. Francine Stock examines the implications

Adoption marathons

FETUS-ranching is unpleasant. These bizarre cases of unborn babies exposed to publicity and up for sponsorship, with the implication that maternity is a means to fame and wealth, are repugnant. Their exploitation - by the parents, the papers, the various factions in the abortion debate - raised ugly questions about the motives for having children.

Then came the inquest as to how a doctor might have prescribed fertility drugs to a woman whose personal life has been depicted as a cross between Brookside and the Borgias. Whether or not Ms Allwood and Mr Hudson constituted an "appropriately investigated couple" according to the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' guidelines on fertility treatment became the talking point. But if the circumstances and the numbers involved are unusual, the basic premise is not. Around 7,000 women receive donor insemination annually, 15,000 have IVF and tens of thousands more (no one has the exact figure since ovulation induction is not regulated) are prescribed fertility drugs. Even given the relatively low success rate of these treatments, that's a lot of babies.

Baker does his best. He signs up for Star Wars and gets his cheers blazing the folly of "letting our American

These statistics must have a stark poignancy for the people who compete in the marathon obstacle race to adopt a baby. The rate of adoptions is falling steadily. In 1976 over 17,000 children were adopted, 8,500 of them babies aged less than one year. The latest available figures show adoptions down to under 7,000 - of which around half were adoptions by step-parents. Only 400 babies under one year old went to "stranger" families.

The market mechanism of adoption is well-rehearsed. Abortion and contraception have limited the supply of surrendered babies. Most people would prefer to adopt babies - it's simpler all round - although plenty are prepared to take on an older child. But that process is far



from straightforward. Of the 40,000 children in local authority residential care, many don't need or want adoption. Those who do may have very special emotional and physical needs, in other words they have been so abused or traumatised that they can only be settled with exceptional adoptive parents.

It's for that reason that the screening process is so fierce and cruelly disappointing to thousands who are desperate to care for a child. The whole thrust of the adoption system is that it is not a service for childless couples, in the way that fertility treatment is. The welfare of the child is the crux of the adoption con-

tract. Earlier this year the government issued a draft adoption bill which aims to cut some of the red tape, but organisations that support prospective adoptive parents still point to shortcomings in the system of assessing prospective parents. When the social worker presents his or her report, the would-be

Getting paid to do nothing

Denis MacShane celebrates the great European summer holiday

SIXTY years ago the beaches of France were hit by an invasion. In the summer of 1936, the Popular Front's first legislation for a fortnight's first holiday a year. The workers of France and their families, rubbing their eyes with disbelief and unsure how long such generosity would last, jumped on to their motor-bikes, their tandems, and headed for the sea, the mountains, and the countryside of France. Thus the European summer holiday was born. Six decades later France and the rest of Europe defy the conventional wisdom of America and Asia that a good break in the working year is something the global economy can do without. Yet bit by bit, the European concept may be spreading. The Chinese government has recently introduced a 6-day week for public-sector employees, while in Japan the government has told firms to reduce annual working time to 1,800 hours - fewer than many British industrial (and profes-

sional) workers now put in. Even in the US - where a week's holiday in the summer is the most an executive dares to take if he or she wants to find the job open upon return - is an increasing understanding that excessive working time no longer makes sense. President Clinton has just passed a law permitting workers to take time off instead of being paid extra cash when they work long hours, as well as legislation in favour of parental leave. In fact it was Henry Ford who decided to put his employees on a 5-day work week and pay them \$5 a day 20 years before the French law on paid holidays. At the time both measures were seen as

breaking faith with the general view of employers that long hours and low pay were the surest way to economic success. Today, the long-hours/low-pay syndrome has returned as conventional wisdom. Ford was willing to be a paternalist employer, but in general, unions have found employers unsympathetic to demands for reducing working time or longer holidays. Alas, it is not just the bosses who are to blame. Employees in the Peugeot factory at Coventry recently went on strike because their French managers wanted to shut down the plant in August to coincide with the French holidays. Low-paid British workers have always opted for overtime rather than time off. In France, Germany and the Netherlands there are now serious discussions at

government level about reducing working time to try and create more jobs, but the British government has vetoed all efforts to make this a Europe-wide issue. Indeed, all European countries, with the exception of the UK, have laws governing minimum holiday entitlement ranging from five to six weeks. As Europe's tourist, leisure and sports industries continue to grow in size, the memory of M and Mme DuPont - the French man and woman in the street - taking their first-ever paid holidays 50 years ago deserves to be commemorated by everyone who thinks there is more to life than clocking in for work. Denis MacShane is Labour MP for Rotherham. He returns from holiday in France tomorrow.

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Small monthly increase in retail price index restrained by price-conscious high street consumers

# House prices lift inflation

Richard Thomas  
Economics Correspondent

**R**ISING house prices nudged the inflation rate up last month despite sharp discounting on the high street, according to official figures released yesterday.

yearly rate of inflation — which strips out housing costs — remained static at 2.8 per cent, restrained by bumper summer sales in shops competing to draw in new custom.

Prices on clothes and shoes dropped by 4.9 per cent in the month, taking the annual change to minus 1.4 per cent — the lowest rate recorded since 1983.

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### Goods v services



Source: Home Office

would further tempt the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, to cut interest rates later in the year.

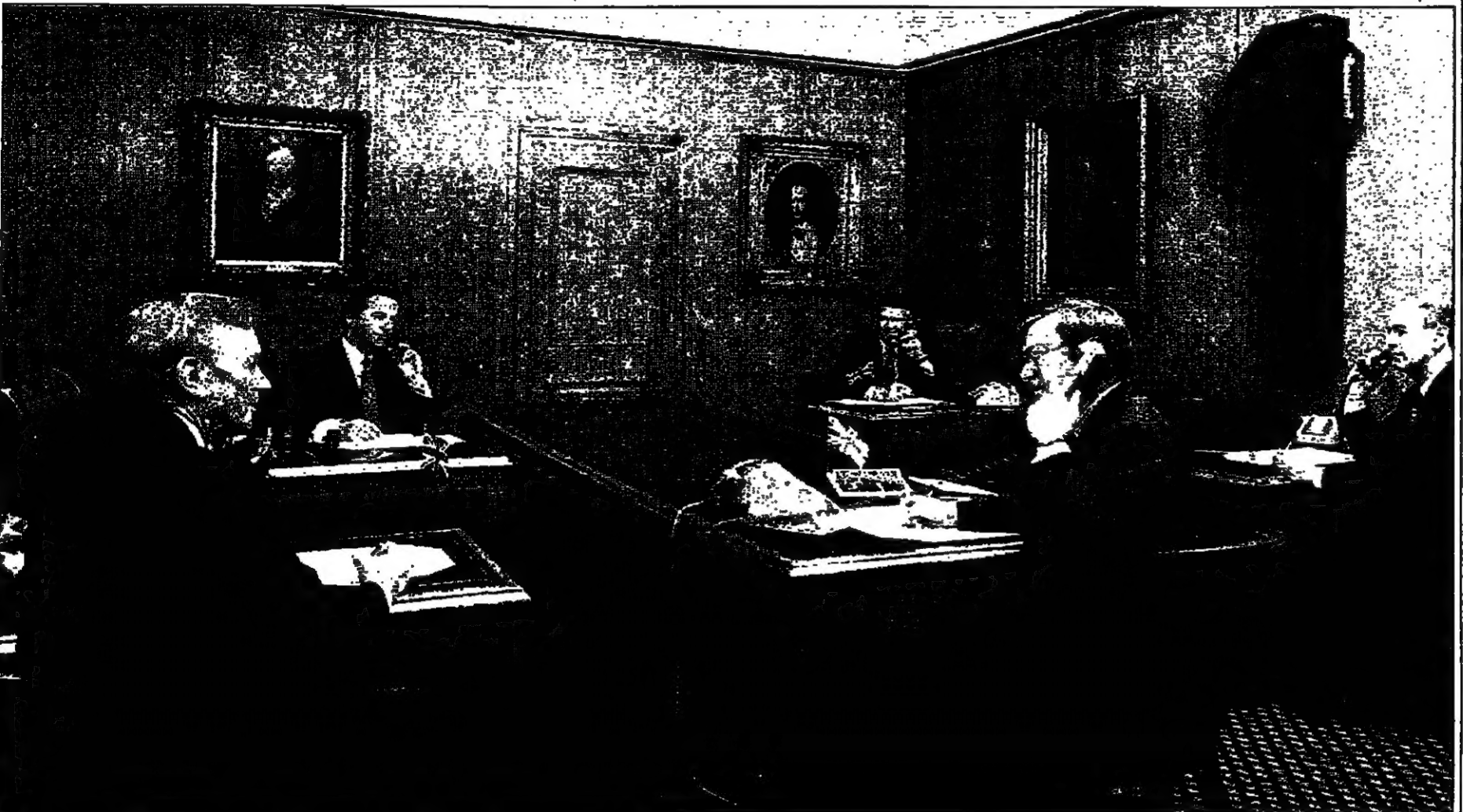
But the Liberal Democrats said the "disappointing" figures showed Mr Clarke continuing to miss his 2.5 per cent target for underlying inflation.

# New BP plant aims to cut power bills

Chris Barrie  
Business Correspondent

**F**URTHER evidence of industry's acute unhappiness with electricity prices emerged yesterday when BP announced that it was in talks with a US energy company over plans to build a £330 million power station near Hull.

built close to its Wilton site for that purpose. In the North-west, its Run-corn site will be supplied from a 700MW station being built now by the US group, Intergen. Surplus electricity will be sold into the pool.



Guild of gentlemen... London Gold Fixing at the offices of NM Rothschild & Sons

# Goldfinger's bullion heirs are guilt-free

DAN ATKINSON concludes the series on London's financial markets with a discreet glimpse at the world of gold dealers

**B**ond handed over the Top Secret folder. It put it to one side. "Something's come up. Odd business... Had dinner with the Governor of the Bank last night... Gold — the seamy side of the stuff. Smuggling, counterfeiting, all that... Goldfinger. Odd chap... He's the chap the Bank of England's after... As from this moment, so are you."

home to roost. There was 1971, when President Nixon took America off the gold standard. Then came the inflationary tidal-wave and threatened social breakdown of the mid-1970s, during which time the smartest investor was the chap with a stockpile of baked beans, a submachine gun and a bag full of Krugerrands.

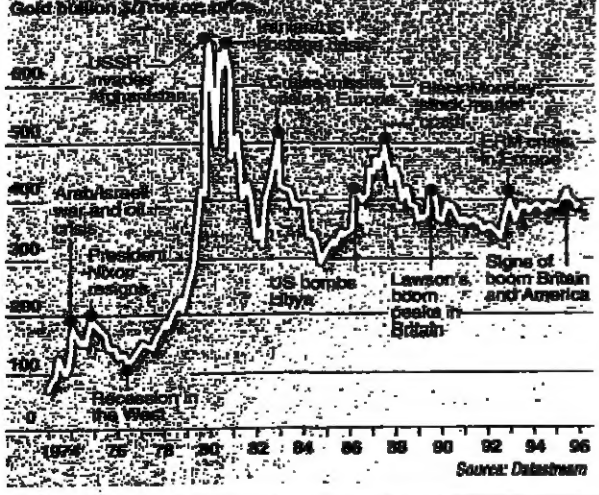
January 1980; the Soviet Union had invaded Afghanistan, the Europeans were installing "theatre" Cruise missiles and President Carter was grappling with the Iranian hostage crisis.

And at the still centre of the still centre are the five gold-fixing banks: Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, Midland Montagu, Republic National Bank of New York, Moccatta (part of Standard Chartered)

operator's trade gold and silver in London; they range from specialist bullion banks to giants like Merrill Lynch and Swiss Bank Corporation.

Central banks, many of whom still keep their reserves with the Bank of England, are among London's best customers, valuing its confidentiality, its liquidity and — give or take the odd "blag" — its security.

### Golden highlights



### American dentists help plug sales gap

**W**ORLD gold demand slid nearly 3 per cent during the second quarter of this year against the same time in 1995 as record sales in poorer countries were more than offset by weaker demand in Europe and Japan, writes Dan Atkinson.

per cent increase, boosted by gold jewellery sales and a 6.5 per cent rise in sales of gold fillings.

countries. A year ago, demand totalled 663 tonnes, with 443 sold in developing countries.

# Coca-Cola shows plenty of bottle as its share price hits all-time high

**C**oca-Cola used the Olympic Games to further its global domination and Mark Tran says it is well in the lead

**A**N enterprising Coca-Cola publicist once dreamed up the marketing ploy of venturing into the wilds of Peru to find an innocent to whom he could introduce Coke.

world's most famous brand name. The company says the trademark is recognised by 94 per cent of the world's population.

Coke's ascent. This week the value of his 8 per cent stake soared above \$10 billion.

Coke's ascent. This week the value of his 8 per cent stake soared above \$10 billion.

misericord 1 per cent. In 1982, Coke caught Hollywood fever and bought Columbia Pictures. In 1985, it committed the blunder of changing its formula.

BRANSON Branson's Virgin Group yesterday said it would begin test marketing its cola in 200 stores in the Philadelphia area, aiming to supplant Pepsi as the No 2 cola brand in the US.

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# Finance Guardian

High Court supports £3.2bn insurance package

## Lloyd's rescue plan survives late Names challenge

Lisa Buckingham

**S**TRICKEN Lloyd's of London yesterday saw off the final UK legal challenge to a £3.2 billion rescue package critical to the 300-year-old insurance market's survival. A High Court judge rejected an attempt by some Lloyd's investors to question the legality of the scheme designed to allow the market to ring-fence £8 billion of pre-1992 losses as well as any deterioration on those years of account. The Faying Names Action Group, which alleges its 1,300 members suffered losses of nearly £500 million, claimed the rescue plan disadvantaged those who had paid their debts and favoured investors who had refused to pay or had taken legal action. The outcome of the High Court hearing coincided with the decision by a US federal judge to order the Securities and Exchange Commission to decide by today whether the reorganisation package breached US disclosure laws. About 100 of Lloyd's 3,000 US investors are suing the market in an attempt to avoid

paying losses and to secure a better deal under the reconstruction plan. Lloyd's yesterday declined comment on the US developments, although a better deal is on offer to some American Names than is available in the UK. But chairman David Rowland welcomed the decision by Lord Justice Brooke to refuse a judicial review to the FNAIG. "We have stressed many times that the offer is in its final form and members must now decide on that basis," he said. Lloyd's has sent details of the settlement proposals to its 34,000 investors who have until the end of the month to accept or refuse. They will then have about 30 days to settle outstanding debts. The insurance market had argued during the hearing that any further delay could jeopardise its rescue plan. A court decision against the £3.2 billion proposals could have had "devastating and chaotic consequences". The judge, who will explain his ruling today, hoped yesterday's decision would remove market uncertainty. He said the case did not raise matters of public law because

Lloyd's relationship with its Names was one of private contract. But even if the court did have jurisdiction, the FNAIG had delayed too long in bringing the case to court. The judge added that Lloyd's had acted within its powers and not "perversely or irrationally" as the paying Names had claimed. The FNAIG is delaying comment until full judgment is delivered. The paying Names claimed that re-insurance premiums for Equitas — the vehicle which will run off old losses — were being used to subsidise which breached Lloyd's principle that investors were responsible for their own losses. The group also contended that the settlement ran contrary to unlimited liability at Lloyd's. Most tellingly, however, the paying Names claimed they had been discriminated against. Names who had refused to pay losses had been given priority, it was alleged. Richard Gordon, counsel for the litigating Names, said that FNAIG members had done all they could to pay their debts to Lloyd's but they had been left worse off than those who had failed to pay.

Investors kept waiting for split-up plans . . .

## Hanson sees its final profits lifted by sales

Lisa Buckingham

**H**ANSON, the conglomerate which came to symbolise the ruthless deal-making of the 1980s, yesterday delivered its last set of results as a single company before dismembering itself into four business units. The group, which left investors waiting for at least another week before revealing the final terms on which chemicals and tobacco will be spun off, reported profits of £1.48 billion for the nine months to June — up from £890 million. But £898 million of those profits came from the sale of operations such as Cavenham and the Seven Seas health products. And although the group's energy company Eastern posted operating profits of £245 million — a rise from £111 million — Hanson was forced to admit that its chemicals business is still mired by

miserable trading conditions in the United States. Despite a £19 million rise in tobacco profits, overall results fell short of analysts' expectations and shares plunged another 2p lower to 166½p — nearly a fifth below their level when the four-way demerger was announced in January, ending 32 years as a single entity. The company decided to write off \$99 million from some of its chemical assets in order to focus on chloride production. Price increases are now promised at SCM Chemicals for September and the company said its recent attempts to ratchet up the price of Quantum's polyethylene were being made to stick. A one-cent-a-pound increase at SCM can add \$10 million a year to profits, while every cent at Quantum is worth up to \$40 million. Hanson, which has already spun off US Industries — a

collection of consumer products operations — said it was also experiencing tough conditions for its UK building business, although margins were being sustained. The group plans to publish the documents to support a demerger of its chemicals and cigarette company, Imperial Tobacco, with brands such as Superkings and John Player, at the end of next week. If all goes to plan, shares in both these companies should start to trade on October 1 and the cost of the demerger will probably be near £100 million. The energy division, which now includes five power stations acquired from National Power and PowerGen, will be hived off early next year even though yesterday's results showed that Peabody Coal, America's largest coal-mining group, is suffering reduced profits because of lower-priced Midwest contracts.

Decks are cleared for demerger . . .

## Thorn EMI chief nets £3.3m

Lisa Buckingham

**S**IR Colin Southgate, chairman of Thorn EMI, yesterday reaped a windfall £3.3 million in share option profits as he cleared the decks ahead of today's vote by shareholders which is expected to give a green light to demerging the group. The company said Sir Colin had exercised more than 141,000 share options which he immediately sold in the market for £17.75 each. Sir Colin exercised another 170,000 options but held on to the shares, which at yesterday's closing price of £17.85

were showing a paper surplus of £2.03 million. The option profits come on top of Sir Colin's salary and bonus, which totalled £755,000 in the latest financial year. The company said most of the options exercised by Sir Colin had been held for seven to 10 years. The Thorn EMI chairman has been an outspoken advocate of the need for executives to hold options and shares over the long term in order to align better remuneration with corporate performance. Sir Colin will continue as chairman of the EMI music business, whose recording stars include Tina Turner.

Blur and George Michael, and whose operations include the HMV retail chain and Dillon book shops. He will stay as chairman of Thorn, the Radio Rentals and Rent-A-Center operations, until spring 1997, when he will be replaced by Hugh Jones, a non-executive director and former executive at the Prudential Investment Group. Thorn also announced that finance director Simon Duffy exercised 154,760 options. Like Sir Colin, Mr Duffy's trade represented almost his entire holding allocation of share options. He netted a paper profit of £1.6 million.

. . . while other conglomerates struggle on

## City punishes diversified firms

Pauline Springett

**Y**ESTERDAY'S reminders of the imminent demergers of both Hanson Thorn EMI and Eastern have focused attention once more on the future for the UK's remaining conglomerates — an unfashionable and dying breed in City eyes.

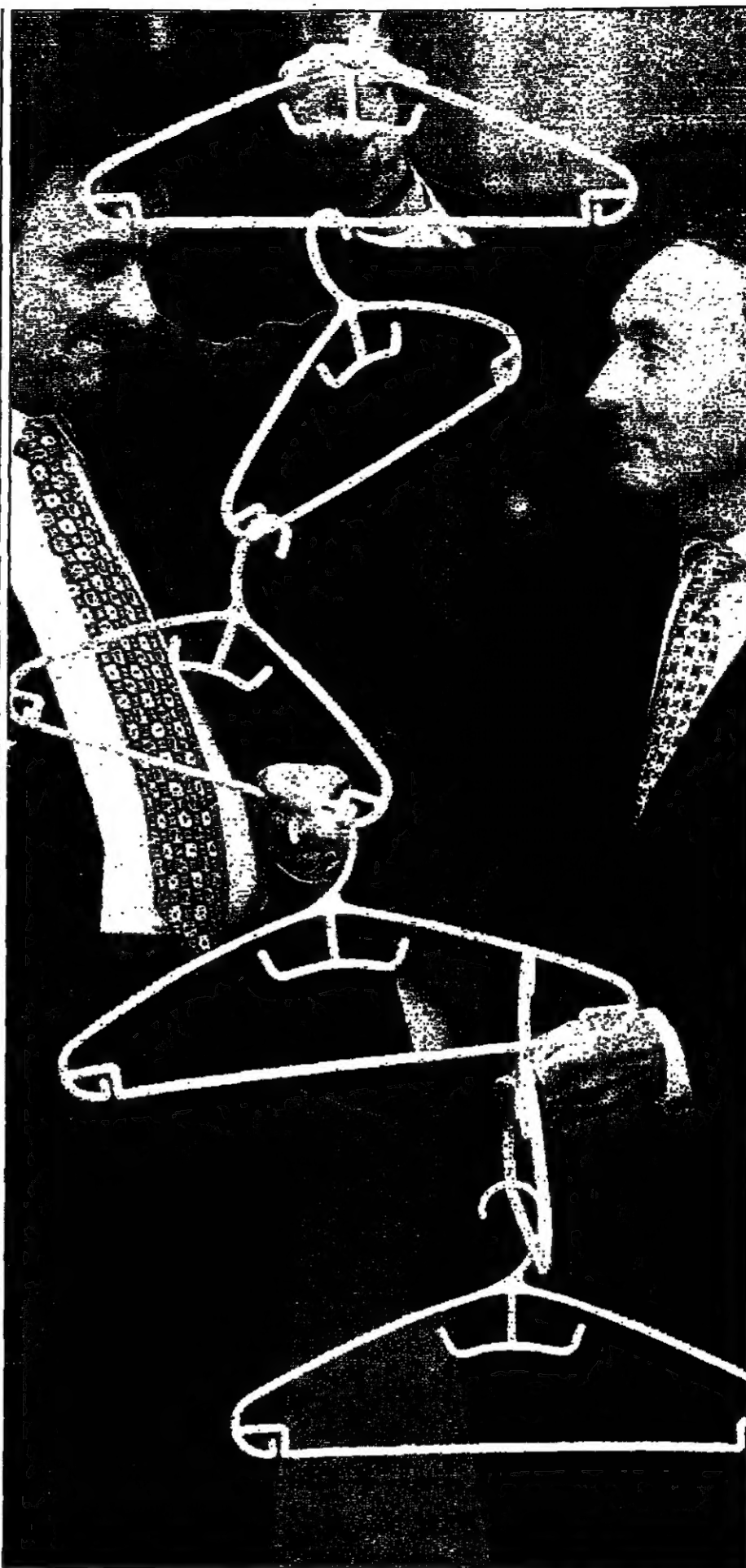
BTR became the latest victim of the City's attitude yesterday. The industrial group saw its shares slip 5.5 pence to 258 pence after broker ABN Amro Hoare Govett cut forecasts for the company's 1996 and 1997 profits and dividend forecasts for the group. ABN cut its 1996 pre-tax forecast to £1.3 billion from its previous estimate of £1.385

billion. It reduced the 1997 estimate to £1.41 billion from £1.5 billion. The company has had an uneasy relationship with the City. A profits warning in May sent the shares tumbling. The efforts of chief executive Ian Strachan to refocus strategy have met with general approval but he has been hampered by tough market conditions. Meanwhile, industrial materials group Coulson looks to have fallen even more out of favour. Later today it will know if it has been booted out of the prestigious FT-SE 100 by next Monday's listing of Thorn and EMI as separate companies

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1 922/5	France 7 82	Italy 2 308	Singapore 2 127/5
Austria 15 72	Germany 2 237/5	Malta 0 535/0	South Africa 6 85
Belgium 46 01	Greece 350 10	Netherlands 2 525/25	Spain 189 50
Canada 2 08	Hong Kong 11 68	New Zealand 2 192/0	Sweden 10 15
Cyprus 0 982/3	India 55 19	Norway 9 71	Switzerland 1 607/5
Denmark 4 05	Ireland 0 35	Portugal 230 50	Turkey 127 088
Finland 6 85	Israel 4 88	Saudi Arabia 5 78	USA 1 514/0

Supplied by NatWest Bank. All including value added tax and bank charges.



Being hung out to dry is all in a week's work for Terry Greer (right) and Richard Zerry, chairman and chief executive (UK) of Johnson Group cleaners — Britain and America's biggest drycleaners. Yesterday, the pair announced that the firm's name was set to be embli-

zoned on shops throughout the country. More than 600 of their 643 British shops will be trading under the Johnson brand by the end of 1998. Mr Greer will not be at the helm to witness the event. He said yesterday he will be retiring next May at the annual meeting

after 19 years with the company. Mr Zerry, who became British chief executive seven years ago, will take the reins as overall group chief executive. Johnson's announced a 28.5 per cent pre-tax profit rise to £9.2 million. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SELLTICE

Notebook

## Trying to silence smoke alarms



Edited by Mark Milner

**I**T SOUNDS like a sales mission from hell: drum up investor interest in a pure cigarette company just days after the tobacco industry suffered one of its worst setbacks at the hands of American litigants. But there is more to come. This cigarette company is particularly keen to win US shareholder support. Yet, unlike other leaders, such as BAT which could potentially offset legal hits to its cigarette business by deploying financial services profits, or RJR Nabisco which could use food earnings in a similar way, this cigarette company has nothing but income from its little white sticks to rely on. If Hanson is to be believed — and it is that conglomerate's Imperial Tobacco subsidiary that will be demerged in October — it still has a winning trick up its sleeve. Imps has scarcely sold a cigarette in the American market. It has stood aside as the US business was ravaged by the anti-smoking lobby and can now smile confidently as its rivals are hauled through the US courts towards what could be costly financial settlements. Hanson is confident that smoking damages cases stand a negligible chance of success in the UK. And Imps business is growing in countries such as France and Spain where, for the time being at least, anti-smoking remains outside the lexicon of the politically correct. More details of the spin-off terms for Imperial and the group's chemicals business — renamed Millennium — should emerge at the end of next week with the demerger documents.

side of the debate. Seasonal foods fell sharply, so did clothing and footwear prices, while household products registered a modest fall. Shoppers are still keen on bargains, making it tough for stores to push up prices. That no doubt pleases the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, who will see the figures as confirming the picture of weak inflationary pressures illustrated by the producer price index data released earlier this week. The Bank of England is unlikely to be comforted. Housing costs — always a sensitive area for the inflation-conscious Old Lady — increased, the willingness of consumers to spend, even at "sales" prices, and the prospect of an economic growth area are likely to increase the threat of inflation. The Bank's worry is that, while price pressures may appear weak at present, any pick-up in inflation will only materialise in the data after the time for action has passed — hence its recent call for a pre-emptive strike. The Bank is, of course, working on a time horizon of a couple of years. The Chancellor's horizons are more likely to be defined by the timing of the election.

## Desperate resort

**L**ATE holiday booking has become almost a summer tradition. Come August and we trot along to the travel agents looking for breaks the holiday companies are prepared to discount in an effort to cover at least a part of their costs for pre-booked airline seats and hotel rooms. Everyone knows the snags. You might not get the destination you want, the dates may be a bit difficult, the hotel might not be the one you would have chosen from the full range in the brochure. Never mind, the upside was sitting in the sun, somewhere, counting the savings on the brochure price. It remains to be seen how many people will be prepared to pay the extra. At a guess, not that many. Indeed, it would be interesting to know how many holidays Airtours has left on its books. The company refuses to say on the grounds of commercial sensitivity. At a guess, however, probably not that many. That, however, is probably not the point. Airtours is more likely aiming to persuade more people to book earlier than to cash in on this year's late bookers. Is this the end of cheap holidays? Very unlikely. Yesterday's move by Airtours does not look like a fundamental change in the market for package holidays.

## Clarke's clock

**Y**ESTERDAY'S inflation figures will make only a modest contribution towards the debate over whether UK interest rates will go up or down. The question is simply one of timing. At some stage interest rates will have to rise; the issue is whether the Chancellor can keep rates on hold or even squeeze out a modest reduction before the next election. The figure offers some ammunition to those on either

## Most metal deals 'fall outside rules'

Patrick Donovan  
City Editor

**L**ONDON Metal Exchange chief executive David King admitted yesterday that the vast majority of City commodity trading lay beyond his control, as the Securities and Investment Board suggested that widespread reforms might be needed to prop up confidence in the world's biggest metals trading market, after the Sumitomo copper scandal. The LME was ready to "hang any member high and hang them publicly" if they were found to have breached rules. Mr King said the main problem remained the issue of jurisdiction because "our control only extends to our members". The LME had no authority over Sumitomo's activities, he added.

Mr King said the measures put forward by the SIB had already been considered as part of an ongoing LME review. He added that the Sumitomo affair might never have come to light if it had not been for the vigilance of the LME authorities, which alerted the Japanese company to suspect trades as early as 1991. Among the questions being asked by the SIB are: whether the market believes further safeguards against manipulation are needed; wants further transparency in "over the counter deals", and sees a need for US-style "circuit breakers" to limit price volatility.

The SIB, the Serious Fraud Office and the City of London police announced in June that they were investigating any British involvement after the Japanese trading group Sumitomo announced that it had lost \$1.6 billion through copper trading and sacked its "rogue trader", Yasuo Hamanaka. The SIB insisted yesterday that it was not making any firm proposals until it had sounded out interested parties. But it hinted that reforms might be needed, saying its review "focuses on ensuring that the LME continues to meet the needs of users". The regulator added that it also needed to ensure the LME "has in place standards of market integrity which

## Guardian Crossword No 20,733 Set by Quantum

- Across**
- 1 Side put in to boast about craft (8)
  - 6 Skin emollient kept in hospital cupboard (4)
  - 10 Hot drink required (The news comes back to us) (5)
  - 11 Show hospitality? To join in one must be in the money (9)
  - 12 Order paper at Army bank? (7)
  - 13 Express directly (3-4)
  - 14 Secret trope I suspect, being contemplative (13)
  - 17 Is large house thus acting as cover for two? (6-7)
  - 21 Indicator of current trends (7)
  - 22 Run plan for fuel holder (7)
  - 24 Oninoco's right to divert effect of chemical action (9)

- Down**
- 1 Pony is unruly on board? That's the general view (8)
  - 2 Strong desire surrounding learner on way up as a composer (5)
  - 3 What's the matter with the play? There's no individuality in it (4-10)
  - 4 Dance about and somehow set record (3-4)
  - 5 Very large bird tiding a short cut (7)
  - 7 Flat piece meant somehow to go around (9)
  - 8 Able to mimic one served with drinks? (6)

- SOLUTION 20,733**
- 9 Piano one clique played showing pretentiousness (14)
  - 10 Signs of unfinished washing? (9)
  - 11 Supporter is at this place in a depression (8)
  - 12 Extraction of molar G.I.'s had is fairly big (7)
  - 13 The first possibility of use to anger (7)
  - 14 Managed the Yard and was corrupt (6)
  - 15 Squat character in book (5)

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